



THE NEW
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**KULLU CELEBRATES
DUSSEHRA FESTIVAL**

Devotees carry deities on palanquins during the week-long International Kullu Dussehra festival, in Himachal Pradesh, on Saturday. Dussehra in other parts of the country comes to an end on Vijaya Dashmi. In Kullu, the festival begins on Vijaya Dashmi. This festival attracts tourists from abroad | P 71

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to General Public that I, Sri. Vinod K S presently residing at Bangalore have lost the original sale deed executed by Sri. Sri Dileep NV in favour of Sri Vinod K S registered as document no.12/59-60 on 15/10/1959, in the office of Sub-Registrar, Nelamangala. If found inform to below mentioned address within 8 days from the date of publication. Sri. Vinod K S, Orchid 002, H.M World City, JP Nagar, 9th Phase, Bangalore-78 Ph: 9972735524

KERALA STATE CENTRE FOR ADVANCED PRINTING AND TRAINING
Head Office Complex, Vattiyorkavu, Thiruvananthapuram Ph: 2365678, 2365415
TENDER NOTICE
No. CAPT/1375/2023-02(OSG) 28.10.2023
E-tender is invited from the leading printing press to undertake printing & supply of Poster & Booklet through online as per the e-tender Id given below
1. Poster (Tender No.130/23-24/OSG) (ID- 2023 CAPT 617093 1)
2. Booklet (Tender No.131/2023/OSG) (ID- 2023 CAPT 617133 1)
For detailed information log to the website: <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in>
www.captkerala.com Sd/-, MD, C-apt

LOST
Notice is hereby given to public at large that my client M.P.Lokesh, S/o Pillaveerappa, partner of Dreams Reality, aged about 38 years, residing at #28, Mallenahalli, Bangalore, on 19.10.2023, misplaced the original Power of Attorney dated 02.07.2019 executed in favour of Mr. Satish Manduva, S/o Mr. Sreenivasa Manduva, aged about 48 years, in respect of purchase of Villa No. 150 in Prestige Mayberry, situated in several Survey numbers in Nagondanahalli Village, Krishnarajapuram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk. A police complaint was lodged on 26.10.2023 in Whitefield Police Station. Finders of the document requested to submit to above address.
Sd/-
Advocate: Anita S Nittor - 9448091496

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public are hereby informed that I, V.NATARAJ, R/at : No.9, 5th Cross, Ganesh Block, Dinnur Main Road, RT Nagar, Bengaluru - 560032, has lost the Original registered sale deed documents viz. 1) Last Original Sale Deed Regd. as Document No.3496/78-71, Dt: 03.12.1970, Pages 48-50, Volume 2288, in the Sub Registrar Gandhi Nagar, 2) Last Original Sale Deed Regd. as Document No.3859/87-88, Dt: 30.03.1988, Pages 90-95, Volume 3435, in the Sub Registrar Gandhi Nagar. A Complaint is lodged in Police on dated 27.10.2023. Last Report No. 0783710/2023 if anybody found the said document please contact this No. 8105109544
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BENGALURU CHITRAKAL

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-TENDER NOTICE
Tender No : 108/2023-24/KWA/PHC/D2/TVM/RT3
JJM - Kulathoor GP - Construction of 15LL OHSR at Kunnumpuram and providing transmission main from Charottukonam to Kunnumpuram, EMD: Rs. 2,00,000/-; Tender fee: Rs. 13,010/-; Last Date for submitting Tender: 21-11-2023, 03:00 pm; Phone: 04712322303.
Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer PH Circle, Thiruvananthapuram

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-TENDER NOTICE
Tender No : 191/2023-24/SE/PHC/CHN
AMRUT 2.0-AMRUT - Improving water supply to Fort Kochi area - Supplying, laying, testing and commissioning of 600mm DI K9 pumping main for a length of 3300m from Beach road Jn. to Fort Kochi OHSR -Pipeline Work, EMD: Rs. 2,00,000/-; Tender fee: Rs. 13010; Last Date for submitting Tender: 17-11-2023 03:00 pm; Phone : 04842360645.
Website: www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer PH Circle, Kochi

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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT,
Revenue Department, M. S. Building, Bengaluru

No: E-RD 164 GRC 2023

Date:04-10-2023

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, upon considering the report of the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Urban District and after due investigation of the complaints of depositors it has come to the notice of the Government, that the M/s Shreyas Finance and Investments is involved in fraudulent transactions by clandestinely and illegally collecting deposits or money from the general public and thereafter have failed to return the same either after maturity or on demand made by the depositors or complainants with promised interest and other assured benefits and thereby have failed to render the services promised to them.

And whereas, it has further come to the notice of the Government that M/s Shreyas Finance and Investments and people associating with them have been acquiring lands, movable and immovable properties, cash and others from and out of the deposits or money so collected, from the depositors or complainants and thereby deviating from the intended purposes of accepting the deposits or money.

And whereas, the Government has reason to believe that the actions of M/s Shreyas Finance and Investments and people associating with them are acting in and detrimental to the interest of the depositors or complainants whose intention was to defraud the innocent depositors, and it has become necessary to protect the interest of the depositors of the M/s Shreyas Finance and Investments.

And whereas, now the Government after considering the report of the Competent Authority, M/s Shreyas Finance and Investments and satisfying itself about the urgent need to protect the interest of the depositors and in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005) here by makes the following order, namely:

"ORDER"

Now therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Karnataka Protection of interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act, 2004 (Karnataka Act 30 of 2005), the Government under the circumstances stated above having satisfied that in order to protect the interest of depositors it is necessary to attach the movable and immovable properties believed to belong to M/s Shreyas Finance and Investments.

Therefore, the Government hereby attaches all immovable properties as specified in the Annexure to this order believed to have been acquired by the M/s Shreyas Finance and Investments either in its own name or in the name of any other person from and out of the deposits collected by the M/s Shreyas Finance and Investments and where it transpires that such money or such other properties of the said financial establishments, or the personal assets of the promoters, partners, directors, managers or members or any other person of the said financial establishments is not sufficient for the repayment of the deposits or interest or such other assured benefits to the depositors.

Note: All the aforesaid immovable properties, from the date of publication of this order in the Official Gazette, shall forthwith vest with the Competent Authority, who has been appointed by the Government, pending further orders from the Special Court.

By Order and in the name of the Governor of Karnataka
Sd/-
(Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department (Services-1,
SSLR & Special Cell)

Annexure

ಮ. ಶ್ರೇಯಸ್ ಫೈನಾನ್ಸ್ ಅಂಡ್ ಇನ್ವೆಸ್ಟ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ಸ್ ದೂಷಿತ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ಇವರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಸ್ಥಿರಾಸ್ತಿ ವಿವರ:

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂ.	ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ವಿವರ	ಚಿಟ್ಟುಬಂದಿ ವಿವರ	ಆರಂಭಿಸಿದ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಮಾಲೀಕ	ಮುಖ್ಯಗೋಲು ಆದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಆಧಾರವಾಗಿರುವ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳಂತೆ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಆಧಾರವಾಗಿರುವ ದಾಖಲೆ ವಿವರ	ಮುಖ್ಯಗೋಲು ಆದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಆಧಾರವಾಗಿರುವ ದಾಖಲೆ ವಿವರ	ಮುಖ್ಯಗೋಲು ಆದೇಶಕ್ಕೆ ಆಧಾರವಾಗಿರುವ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳಂತೆ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಆಧಾರವಾಗಿರುವ ದಾಖಲೆ ವಿವರ	ಅಂಕಣ 02ರಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮೂಹ ಮಾಲೀಕರ ಸ್ವತ್ತು ಮುಖ್ಯಗೋಲು ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಪರಾಕು
1	ತುಮಕೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಕುಣಿಗಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಯಡಿಯೂರು ಹೋಬಳಿ ಚಾಕೀನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಹಳೆ ಸ.ನಂ.34/4 ರಲ್ಲಿ 0-28.08 ಗುಂಟೆ	ಪೂರ್ವಕ್ಕೆ: ನಕಾಸೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮಕ್ಕೆ: ನಕಾಸೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ರವರ ಜಮೀನು ಉತ್ತರಕ್ಕೆ: ಸಾಕಮ್ಮ ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ: ಜಯಮ್ಮ ಬಿನ್ ನಿಂಗಪ್ಪ ರವರ ಜಮೀನು	ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ.ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ 0-28.08 ಗುಂಟೆ	ಕ್ರಯ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡವರು ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ. ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ಕ್ರಯ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಟ್ಟವರು ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ. ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ: ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ನಿಂಗಪ್ಪ ರವರ ಜಮೀನು	ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ KNL-1-00716-2007-08 Dated 15-06-2007	ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮೂಹದ ಒಂಟಿ ಒಟ್ಟು ಖರೀದಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ:43,000/- ಪಾವತಿ ವಿಧಾನ: ನಗದು ಮೂಲಕ	ಸದರಿ ಸ್ವತ್ತು ದೂಷಿತ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ಇವರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
2	ತುಮಕೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಕುಣಿಗಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಯಡಿಯೂರು ಹೋಬಳಿ ಚಾಕೀನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಹಳೆ ಸ.ನಂ.35/5 ರಲ್ಲಿ 1 ಎಕರೆ 38 ಗುಂಟೆ	ಪೂರ್ವಕ್ಕೆ: ಕೆ.ವಿ.ಕಾಂಪೌಂಡ್ (ತಿಮ್ಮರೂರು ಗಡಿ ಜಮೀನು) ಪಶ್ಚಿಮಕ್ಕೆ: ನಕಾಸೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಉತ್ತರಕ್ಕೆ: ಸಿ.ಎಂ.ಜೆ.ನಗರದ ಉ/ಸುಬ್ಬಯ್ಯ ರವರ ಜಮೀನು ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ: ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ರವರ ಸ್ವಂತ ಜಮೀನು	ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ.ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ಗೌಡ 0-26 ಗುಂಟೆ	ಕ್ರಯ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡವರು ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ. ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ಕ್ರಯ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಟ್ಟವರು ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ. ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ: ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ರವರ ಸ್ವಂತ ಜಮೀನು	ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ KNL-1-01062-2007-08 Dated 17-07-2007	ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮೂಹದ ಒಂಟಿ ಒಟ್ಟು ಖರೀದಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ:40000/- ಪಾವತಿ ವಿಧಾನ: ನಗದು ಮೂಲಕ	ಸದರಿ ಸ್ವತ್ತು ದೂಷಿತ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ. ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ಇವರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
	ತುಮಕೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಕುಣಿಗಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಯಡಿಯೂರು ಹೋಬಳಿ ಚಾಕೀನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಹಳೆ ಸ.ನಂ.35/5 ರಲ್ಲಿ 1 ಎಕರೆ 38 ಗುಂಟೆ	ಪೂರ್ವಕ್ಕೆ: ಕೆ.ವಿ.ಕಾಂಪೌಂಡ್ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮಕ್ಕೆ: ನಕಾಸೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಉತ್ತರಕ್ಕೆ: ಸಿ.ಎಂ.ಜೆ.ನಗರದ ಉ/ಸುಬ್ಬಯ್ಯ ರವರ ಜಮೀನು ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ: ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ರವರ ಸ್ವಂತ ಜಮೀನು	ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ.ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ಗೌಡ 0-26 ಗುಂಟೆ	ಕ್ರಯ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡವರು ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ. ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ಕ್ರಯ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಟ್ಟವರು ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ. ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ: ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ರವರ ಸ್ವಂತ ಜಮೀನು	ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ KNL-1-00531-2007-08 Dated 31-05-2007	ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮೂಹದ ಒಂಟಿ ಒಟ್ಟು ಖರೀದಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ:60000/- ಪಾವತಿ ವಿಧಾನ: ನಗದು ಮೂಲಕ	ಸದರಿ ಸ್ವತ್ತು ದೂಷಿತ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ. ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ಇವರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
	ತುಮಕೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಕುಣಿಗಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಯಡಿಯೂರು ಹೋಬಳಿ ಚಾಕೀನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಹಳೆ ಸ.ನಂ.35/5 ರಲ್ಲಿ 1 ಎಕರೆ 38 ಗುಂಟೆ	ಪೂರ್ವಕ್ಕೆ: ಕೆ.ವಿ.ಕಾಂಪೌಂಡ್ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮಕ್ಕೆ: ನಕಾಸೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಉತ್ತರಕ್ಕೆ: ಸಿ.ಎಂ.ಜೆ.ನಗರದ ಉ/ಸುಬ್ಬಯ್ಯ ರವರ ಜಮೀನು ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ: ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ರವರ ಸ್ವಂತ ಜಮೀನು	ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ.ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ಗೌಡ 0-26 ಗುಂಟೆ	ಕ್ರಯ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡವರು ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ. ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ಕ್ರಯ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಟ್ಟವರು ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ. ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ: ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ರವರ ಸ್ವಂತ ಜಮೀನು	ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ KNL-1-00530-2007-08 Dated 31-05-2007	ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮೂಹದ ಒಂಟಿ ಒಟ್ಟು ಖರೀದಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ:60000/- ಪಾವತಿ ವಿಧಾನ: ನಗದು ಮೂಲಕ	ಸದರಿ ಸ್ವತ್ತು ದೂಷಿತ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ. ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ಇವರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
3	ತುಮಕೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಕುಣಿಗಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಯಡಿಯೂರು ಹೋಬಳಿ ಚಾಕೀನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಹಳೆ ಸ.ನಂ.35/7 ರಲ್ಲಿ 3 ಎಕರೆ 14 ಗುಂಟೆ	ಪೂರ್ವಕ್ಕೆ: ತಿಮ್ಮರೂರು ಗಡಿ (ಕೆ.ವಿ.ಕಾಂಪೌಂಡ್) ಪಶ್ಚಿಮಕ್ಕೆ: ನಕಾಸೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಉತ್ತರಕ್ಕೆ: ಸಾಕಮ್ಮ ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ: ಜಯಮ್ಮ ಬಿನ್ ನಿಂಗಪ್ಪ ರವರ ಜಮೀನು	ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ.ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ಗೌಡ 0-26 ಗುಂಟೆ	ಕ್ರಯ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡವರು ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ. ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ಕ್ರಯ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಟ್ಟವರು ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ. ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ: ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ರವರ ಸ್ವಂತ ಜಮೀನು	ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ KNL-1-1736/2007-08 Dated 08-01-2007	ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮೂಹದ ಒಂಟಿ ಒಟ್ಟು ಖರೀದಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ:32500/- ಪಾವತಿ ವಿಧಾನ: ನಗದು ಮೂಲಕ	ಸದರಿ ಸ್ವತ್ತು ದೂಷಿತ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ. ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ಇವರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
		ಪೂರ್ವಕ್ಕೆ: ತಿಮ್ಮರೂರು ಗಡಿ (ಕೆ.ವಿ.ಕಾಂಪೌಂಡ್) ಪಶ್ಚಿಮಕ್ಕೆ: ನಕಾಸೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಉತ್ತರಕ್ಕೆ: ಸಾಕಮ್ಮ ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ: ಜಯಮ್ಮ ಬಿನ್ ನಿಂಗಪ್ಪ ರವರ ಜಮೀನು	ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ.ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ಗೌಡ 0-27 ಗುಂಟೆ	ಕ್ರಯ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡವರು ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ. ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ಕ್ರಯ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಟ್ಟವರು ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ. ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ: ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ರವರ ಸ್ವಂತ ಜಮೀನು	ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ KNL-1-1735/2007-08 Dated 08-01-2007	ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮೂಹದ ಒಂಟಿ ಒಟ್ಟು ಖರೀದಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ:34000/- ಪಾವತಿ ವಿಧಾನ: ನಗದು ಮೂಲಕ	ಸದರಿ ಸ್ವತ್ತು ದೂಷಿತ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ. ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ಇವರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
		ಪೂರ್ವಕ್ಕೆ: ತಿಮ್ಮರೂರು ಗಡಿ (ಕೆ.ವಿ.ಕಾಂಪೌಂಡ್) ಪಶ್ಚಿಮಕ್ಕೆ: ನಕಾಸೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಉತ್ತರಕ್ಕೆ: ಸಾಕಮ್ಮ ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ: ಜಯಮ್ಮ ಬಿನ್ ನಿಂಗಪ್ಪ ರವರ ಜಮೀನು	ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ.ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ಗೌಡ 0-28 ಗುಂಟೆ	ಕ್ರಯ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡವರು ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ. ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ಕ್ರಯ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಟ್ಟವರು ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ. ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ: ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ರವರ ಸ್ವಂತ ಜಮೀನು	ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ KNL-1-1738/2007-08 Dated 08-01-2007	ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮೂಹದ ಒಂಟಿ ಒಟ್ಟು ಖರೀದಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ:35000/- ಪಾವತಿ ವಿಧಾನ: ನಗದು ಮೂಲಕ	ಸದರಿ ಸ್ವತ್ತು ದೂಷಿತ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ. ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ಇವರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
4	ತುಮಕೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಕುಣಿಗಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಯಡಿಯೂರು ಹೋಬಳಿ ಚಾಕೀನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಹಳೆ ಸ.ನಂ.35/8ರಲ್ಲಿ 1-22 ಗುಂಟೆ	ಪೂರ್ವಕ್ಕೆ: ತಿಮ್ಮರೂರು ಗಡಿ (ಕೆ.ವಿ.ಕಾಂಪೌಂಡ್) ಪಶ್ಚಿಮಕ್ಕೆ: ನಕಾಸೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಉತ್ತರಕ್ಕೆ: ಸಾಕಮ್ಮ ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ: ಜಯಮ್ಮ ಬಿನ್ ನಿಂಗಪ್ಪ ರವರ ಜಮೀನು	ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ.ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ಗೌಡ 0-27 ಗುಂಟೆ	ಕ್ರಯ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡವರು ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ. ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ಕ್ರಯ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಟ್ಟವರು ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ. ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ: ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ರವರ ಸ್ವಂತ ಜಮೀನು	ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ KNL-1-1737/2007-08 Dated 08-01-2007	ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮೂಹದ ಒಂಟಿ ಒಟ್ಟು ಖರೀದಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ:34000/- ಪಾವತಿ ವಿಧಾನ: ನಗದು ಮೂಲಕ	ಸದರಿ ಸ್ವತ್ತು ದೂಷಿತ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ. ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ಇವರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
5	ತುಮಕೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಕುಣಿಗಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಯಡಿಯೂರು ಹೋಬಳಿ ಚಾಕೀನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಹಳೆ ಸ.ನಂ.35/9 ರಲ್ಲಿ 0-20 ಗುಂಟೆ	ಪೂರ್ವಕ್ಕೆ: ತಿಮ್ಮರೂರು ಗಡಿ (ಕೆ.ವಿ.ಕಾಂಪೌಂಡ್) ಪಶ್ಚಿಮಕ್ಕೆ: ನಕಾಸೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಉತ್ತರಕ್ಕೆ: ಸಾಕಮ್ಮ ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ: ಜಯಮ್ಮ ಬಿನ್ ನಿಂಗಪ್ಪ ರವರ ಜಮೀನು	ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ.ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ಗೌಡ 0-20 ಗುಂಟೆ	ಕ್ರಯ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡವರು ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ. ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ಕ್ರಯ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಟ್ಟವರು ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ. ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ದಕ್ಷಿಣಕ್ಕೆ: ಎಂ.ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ರವರ ಸ್ವಂತ ಜಮೀನು	ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ KNL-1-01875/2006-07 Dated 06-02-2007	ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮೂಹದ ಒಂಟಿ ಒಟ್ಟು ಖರೀದಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ:93000/- ಪಾವತಿ ವಿಧಾನ: ನಗದು ಮೂಲಕ	ಸದರಿ ಸ್ವತ್ತು ದೂಷಿತ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ. ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸ್ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ವೈ.ವಿ. ಮುನಿಪಾಲಿಟಿ ಇವರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
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Sd/-
(Anwar Basha)
Deputy Secretary to Government
Revenue Department (Services-1,
SSLR & Special Cell)

DIPR/CP/1874/2023-24



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2 ASHOKA UNIV FOUNDERS ARRESTED IN MONEY LAUNDERING CASE BY ED
The Enforcement Directorate arrested two co-founders of Ashoka University in a money laundering probe linked to an alleged bank fraud

PROBED FOR ROLE AS FOUNDERS OF PHARMA CO
Vineet Gupta and Pranav Gupta stepped down from their posts at Ashoka in 2022, a year after the CBI filed a case against them and their company, Parabolic Drugs. Parabolic chartered accountant S K Bansal has also been taken into custody. The central agency continued with its searches against the group. In all, 17 premises have been raided so far

CBI ALLEGES ₹1,627 CRORE FRAUD ON BANKS
■ The money-laundering case stems from a CBI FIR in which the promoters and the pharma co were booked for allegedly defrauding a consortium, led by the Central Bank of India, of ₹1,626.74 crore
■ The ED suspects that the Guptas layered and diverted bank loan funds to the tune of ₹7 crore to the university

20

COMPANIES ARE BEING PROBED INTO AS PART OF THE LOAN FRAUD CASE

India abstains on Gaza truce vote at the UNGA



Palestinians inspect the site of an Israeli airstrike in Deir al Balah in central Gaza Strip on Saturday | AP



Children carry bags of bread as they ride a bicycle in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip on Saturday | AFP

Oppn pans abstention; Modi holds talks with Egyptian President

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

INDIA abstained in the United Nations General Assembly on a resolution that called for an immediate humanitarian truce in the Israel-Hamas conflict, drawing a sharp rebuke from the Opposition camp.

The resolution was adopted on Friday with 120 nations voting in favour, 14 against and 45 abstaining. Besides India those who abstained included the US, the UK, Australia, Canada, Germany, Japan and Ukraine. The draft resolution was submitted by Jordan and co-sponsored by more than 40 nations, including Russia, South Africa and Bangladesh.

The resolution did not include any explicit condemnation of the terror attacks of October 7. An amendment was moved to include it, prior to the vote on the main resolution. India voted in favour of the amendment, which obtained 88 votes in favour (but not two-thirds majority). Since all elements of India's approach was not covered in the final text, India abstained.

In its Explanation of Vote (EOV), India said terror attacks in Israel on October 7 were shocking and deserve condemnation. "Our thoughts are also with those taken hostages. We call for their immediate and unconditional release."

On Palestine, the EOV said India has always supported a negotiated two-state solution.

Later in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and discussed the West Asia crises.

Expressing shock at the country's position, senior Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi said India was founded on the principles of non-violence and truth. "I am shocked and ashamed that our country has abstained from voting for a ceasefire in Gaza," she said. The Left accused the Centre of shaping its foreign policy as a subordinate ally of US imperialism.

Israel intensifies attacks; Hamas offers to trade hostages for prisoners

AGENCIES

ISRAEL on Saturday announced that its war against Hamas has entered a new phase after its warplanes relentlessly pounded areas in northern Gaza late into Friday night.

Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas, which confirmed that its fighters were engaged in violent confrontations with Israeli ground forces inside Gaza, offered to release all hostages in exchange for Israel freeing all Palestinian prisoners. "The price to pay for the large number of enemy hostages in our hands is to empty the (Israeli) prisons of all Palestinian prisoners," it said in a statement.

Meanwhile, residents in Gaza described the overnight Israeli bombardment from the sea and the air as the most intense yet in the conflict that began on October 7 following Hamas attacks on Israel. Israel's defence minister Yoav Gallant said "the ground shook in Gaza" referring to the impact of the airstrikes.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) declared Gaza City a 'battlefield' and warned civilians remaining there to move to southern Gaza immediately. The IDF said its warplanes struck 150 tunnels and underground bunkers in northern Gaza. As per witnesses quoted by AFP, most of the bombing was concentrated in areas around two hospitals, one of which is Al-Shifa in Gaza City. Israel had claimed that Hamas' main operations base is underneath this hospital—the largest in the Palestinian enclave.

Amid the bombings, the ground operations in northern Gaza by Israeli troops continued into Saturday evening, with Gallant saying "the action will continue until further notice." The residents of Gaza remained cut off from the rest of the world by the telecommunications blackout imposed by Israel. Attempts to reach them by phone were largely unsuccessful, the Associated Press reported.

Siddu's meet with Dr G a ploy to counter DKS, supporters?

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@ Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah held a meeting at the residence of Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara along with Social Welfare Minister HC Mahadevappa and PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi on Friday.

It is being seen in political circles as a move by Siddaramaiah to take Parameshwara, a Dalit, into confidence in the wake of DyCM DK Shivakumar's staunch supporters, including MLAs Ravikumar

Gowda (Ganiga) and Channagiri MLA Basavaraju V Shivaganga, saying that Shivakumar will become chief minister after two-and-a-half years.

Basavaraju had said, "We, 60-70 first-time MLAs, will back Shivakumar and he will become CM within five years. It may happen anytime between one-and-a-half and two-and-a-half years. The first-time MLAs got together and discussed backing Shivakumar as we won because of his organisational skills."

Making a quick move, Sid-

daramaiah called up Parameshwara, who was at his hometown Tumakuru till evening, and asked him to arrange a meeting over dinner, to which he responded promptly. Another ST Nayaka leader and Cooperation Minister KN Rajanna, who has been stating repeatedly that Siddaramaiah should continue as chief minister for the full five-year term, played a key role in arranging the meeting. But he deliberately kept himself away from attending the meeting, a source told TNSE.

P6

Panel squeeze gives Moitra TMC support

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

THE Lok Sabha Ethics Committee on Saturday summoned Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra to depose before it on November 2 in connection with the alleged 'cash for query' charges against her; adding there would be no further extension of date. Moitra had sought its rescheduling after November 5.

Moitra for the first time received support from her party on the episode, as TMC leader Kunal Ghosh questioned the ethics panel's urgency in summoning her.

The cash for query saga became more spicy after Moitra on Friday by admitting that she has provided her Parliament website's login credentials to industrialist Darshan Hiranandani, though she has drafted her own questions. But she denied any wrongdoing, arguing instead that the National Informatics Centre has no rules barring sharing her login.

"Someone in Hiranandani's office typed the question I gave on the Parliament website." The portal has OTP protection. "So, the idea that Darshan would log in to my ID and put in questions of his own is ludicrous," Moitra said on TV.

13 held for malpractice in FDA entrance examination

RAMAKRISHNA BADESEHI
@ Kalaburagi

THE police arrested 13 people from Kalaburagi and Yadgir districts for using bluetooth devices to answer the Common Entrance Exam conducted by the Karnataka Examination Authority to recruit first-division assistants on the first day of the exam on Saturday.

The police suspect that RD Patil, who was one of the kingpins in the PSI exam scam, could be behind the latest malpractice too. Patil, who contested the Assembly elections on a Samajwadi Party ticket, is out on bail now. The first candidate arrested was Trimurti Talawar, who was writing the exam at Sharanabasaveshwara College exam centre.

P7

BIG APPLAUSE

Teams win matches, Chennai crowd hearts

KALYANI MANGALE @ Chennai

THERE were different shades of green and a fair bit of blue at the Chepauk here on Friday. South Africa vs Pakistan; the iconic MA Chidambaram stadium was hosting the last allocated match of this ODI World Cup. The excitement was palpable. As the crowd swelled to 29,000 (35,000 capacity), in the evening, the atmosphere was electric. The match turned intense with Pakistan enacting a heroic comeback of their own. However, South Africa held on to eke out a one-wicket win.

Yet, the ones that won the hearts was the crowd. Unlike most venues they thronged the stadium in numbers even in non-India matches. They hooted for every brilliant fielding effort and cheered every boundary. If you could hear the roar Shaheen Shah Afridi got in his final spell you wouldn't know if it was Chennai or Karachi. This had been the mood since the first match played between India and Australia on Oct 8.

South Africa's Tabraiz Shamsi, who took four wickets and was on the other end when Kes-



PHOTO: SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

hav Maharaj scored the winning runs, sums it up quite succinctly: "This was the first time for me in Chennai and it was amazing. Even when we were fielding, I just thought to myself that they were supporting both teams. Even in the end when we were scoring runs, they were cheering for us and when Shaheen was taking wickets he got applause. I loved all of it."

It was not just about the crowd. Mickey Arthur, Pakistan team director, applauded the facilities provided by Tamil Nadu Cricket Association. Even for fans, it was an enjoyable experience. "Take the results out of the way (for us), Chennai has been outstanding. Training facilities, everything has been brilliant," he said.

B'luru tech professor loses ₹5.2 lakh in click-to-earn scam

RISHITA KHANNA @ Bengaluru

A 37-year-old IT professor lost Rs 5.22 lakh while trying to make extra income through a work-from-home scheme involving liking and subscribing to YouTube channels. The professor, Amit (name changed), received a message via WhatsApp and was enticed into the fraudulent scheme after he was offered a task-based role, promising daily earnings of Rs 5,000 to Rs 7,000 by promoting YouTube channels. Amit was told that the scheme involves a prepayment method and he initially invested Rs 1,000 and earned a return of Rs 1,500. After a month, he invested Rs 5.22 lakh with expectations of returns exceeding Rs 10 lakh but was immediately denied access to the Telegram group.

The investigating officer from Bengaluru Rural CEN police station said, "Amit, associated with an private engineering college located on Sarjapur Road, was lured into the scheme."

P7

EXPRESS READ

Leopard sighted in city's Brookefield? Forest dept starts combing operation

BENGALURU: Panic spread in Brookefield on Saturday evening after reports made rounds that a leopard was wandering in the area. Forest officials said that news is being looked into. "A team is combing the area and if need be, we will put cages. Leopards are seen around the area and Kadugodi forest is not far," said Bengaluru Urban Chief Conservator of Forests SS Lingaraju. The CCTV footage that people are talking about will be examined, he added. Officials requested citizens not to wander alone at night.

GOVT BOOSTS BUFFER STOCK OF ONIONS

The Centre announced it will procure additional 2 lakh tonnes of onion for the buffer and imposed minimum export price of \$800 per tonne to raise its local availability

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FIROZ ROZINDAR @ Vijayapura

EVERY Sunday, Anil Rathod (30) starts off from his village Kerutagi in Sindagi taluk to Vijayapura district stadium to play the sport he loves the most. Anil, affected by polio, goes to the same stadium located 60 km from his village to practice cricket with other players like him. Despite losing strength in one of his legs due to polio and his movements restricted by the wheelchair, his passion for cricket continues to flourish.

Anil is one of the 25 wheelchair-bound cricketers in Vijayapura district who play the sport under the banner 'Karnataka State Divyang Cricket Association'. It was formed in 2008 for the differently-abled. In 2020, a separate wing was created for wheelchair-bound cricketers.

"Our wing now has over 120 players across Karnataka. They are dedicated cricketers and participate in all state and national-level tournaments," says 32-year-old Mahesh Totad, who heads the wing of wheelchair cricketers in the state and is also the captain of the Karnataka wheelchair-bound cricket team.

Mahesh, crippled below his waist due to polio that struck him when he was two, started playing cricket in high school. "I used to play cricket with my friends. I was the only disabled person. I was given a runner to run between the wickets," he says. But it was in 2016 that Mahesh began playing professional para-sitting cricket and participated in the national championships. It was in 2020 that he ven-



Wheelchair-bound cricketers in Vijayapura, fighting against all odds, carve a niche for themselves in the sport

turned into wheelchair-bound cricket. "In 2020, I met MR Mahesh, the state president, and Mahesh Agali, the general secretary of Karnataka State Divyang Cricket Association. Since the association till then had only para sitting cricket players, they created a wing for wheelchair-bound players in the association and gave me the full responsibility," Mahesh says.

Hailing from Vijayapura city, Mahesh (32) gets some money from his rented house for his daily needs. "After taking charge, I have been working hard to bring players like me to

play cricket. We have 25 people in our Vijayapura group. They live in different parts of the district and are from various walks of life. But all of them have an immense passion for cricket. They are disabled either because of polio or due to some accident. We all practice every Sunday at the district stadium for at least five hours," adds Mahesh, who has dedicated his life for wheelchair-bound cricket.

Mahesh has participated in national tournaments in Delhi, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka, and even played for Team Hyderabad in the Indian Wheelchair Premier League (IWPL) in Delhi. He, however, regrets that unlike the Indian Premier League (IPL) where the players get huge money during auctions, in IWPL, the players get no money. "All they get is accommodation and food from

the organisers. Even the cost of travelling to the venue is borne by the players," he adds.

Despite their enormous passion, the players get no financial benefits or recognition. Their association is not recognised by the government or by the Board of Control for Cricket in India. "Because of this, we do not get any financial assistance or other benefits. We play cricket solely because of our passion. How long can a person continue to play the game by spending money from his own pocket or by seeking help from sponsors," Mahesh wonders.



I used to play cricket with my friends. I was the only disabled person, and was given a runner. In 2016 I began playing professional para-sitting cricket.

Mahesh Totad, Captain of the Karnataka wheelchair-bound cricket team

Karnataka State Divyang Cricket Association' was formed in 2008 for the differently-abled. A separate wing for wheelchair-bound cricketers was formed in 2020 | EXPRESS

Fix footpaths and save pedestrians: BNP to BBMP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

BENGALURU Navanirmana Party (BNP) has urged Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagar Palike (BBMP) to swiftly address footpath issues plaguing the city. They said that footpath is a significant component of urban infrastructure, and plays a crucial role in ensuring the safety and convenience of pedestrians.

However, collapsed pathways and missing footpath sections have become a recurring concern for residents, said the party members and listed out the different collapsed footpaths in the city. They urged the BBMP to allocate budget for the footpath and take measures to address the issue.

Speaking about BBMP's negligence towards footpaths, Lalithamba BV, a Governing Council Member of BNP, on Saturday said, "Poorly maintained footpaths are more than just inconveniences. They are a serious threat to public safety. Footpaths collapse due to lack of proper infrastructure, and does not only cause inconvenience to the pedestrians, but also contributes to traffic congestion. It is essential for the local authorities to take swift and effective action to address these problems, and ensure that residents are able to navigate safely and comfortably." She added that with attention and investment, it can be transformed into a pedestrian-friendly path for everyone.

Vishnu Reddy, Zonal President of Mahadevapura zone, BNP said, "Despite several promises to make Bengaluru pedestrian-friendly, no improvements can be seen on the ground."

31 state varsities opt for academic bank

PURAN CHOUDHARY @ Bengaluru

IN Karnataka, 31 state universities and 17 autonomous colleges have enrolled their students in the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) system despite the current government scrapping the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP).

Over 102 institutions have registered for the credit framework, which will allow students to store their credits and act as a centralised repository encompassing all the credits earned through one's education journey. The system introduced under NEP will aid students in transitioning between different colleges and universities anywhere in the country.

As per the Education Ministry data, Karnataka ranks



Highest ABC accounts created by	
Karnataka State Open University, Mysuru	65,080
Rani Channamma University, Belagavi	59,331
Visvesvaraya Technological University	56,591
Jain (Deemed to be University)	48,480
Bangalore City University	34,217

eighth among states for registering on the portal. In all, 4,40,040 accounts have been created with 4,176 being updated with credit data that students can access from anywhere. A total of 5,648 credit records with ABC IDs have been updated by institutions. Anil Sahasrabudhe, Chairperson, All-India Council for Technical Education, said, "ABC will stand as an authentic record

of a student's performance. Once the universities and colleges will see the benefit of the system, others will fall in line."

While the updating of credits on student IDs has been slow, he said in due time, it will work perfectly. "Many universities are creating teams and the credits will be updated either through the Controller of Examination or Dean of Academics. It will

take some time but will be in a verified manner."

KR Venugopal, former V-C, Bangalore University, said, "The credits that students accumulate will stay active for seven years offering flexibility to students to complete their degrees. ABC ID will also stand valid for universities having tie-ups with foreign colleges, helping students achieve certifications from there."

Another professor contested that such methods are adopted from Western countries and their practicality in India should be analysed before adopting them. "Just registration of students is not enough. How much of it will be used in the long run is what we'll have to see," said the principal of a college in Bengaluru.

Fix streetlights, make bus stops more accessible, recommends B.PAC report



Former DGP Jija Hari Singh, senior VP & business unit leader of CGI Dr Rahul Ghoke, B.PAC member Anandagund Rao, B.SAFE Program Head Chitra Talwar, and B.PAC member Mimi Parthasarthy release the report | EXPRESS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

BANGALORE Political Action Committee (B.PAC) and CSR partner CGI released the B.SAFE Constituency Public Place Safety Audit Report of Dasarahalli and Hebbal Assembly Constituencies on Saturday.

B.SAFE Constituency is an initiative by B.PAC in partnership with different stakeholders, community and domain

experts on a common platform, to facilitate a safer and empowered assembly constituency for women through an integrated set of programs like public place audits, community awareness, recommended action plans and sustained advocacy. Safety audit was conducted across six types of public places that women access regularly, in both the constituencies.

According to the report, all the police stations audited, had dedicated women's desks, sepa-

rate waiting area for women, with CCTVs installed and in working condition, and all the audited 10 PHCs provide free medicines for patients.

The report suggested that the two focus areas for immediate action are to fix the street lights and making the bus stops more accessible. As the streets were either lit dimly or unlit and bus stops in this constituency lack basic seating arrangement and route map details.

B.PAC suggested that to improve the overall public place safety score for both constituencies, public toilets must be open all day long, and parks must have CCTV cameras installed.

Former DGP Jija Hari Singh said, "During my days of service, the city saw many attacks on women, and I wish we had an initiative like B.SAFE Constituency back then. I hope this initiative is implemented across the city, and is a success."



Metro feeder buses between BTM Layout and Banashankari

Bengaluru: Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, BMTC MD Sathyavathi and other top officials flagged off the two new metro-feeder buses between Banashankari and BTM Layout, on Saturday. BMTC introduced MF-21, which will start from BTM Layout's Kuvempunagar and reach Banashankari via Mahadeshwara Nagar, Madiwala Lake, JP Nagar 3rd Stage, Delmia and JP Nagar 6th Stage. The first bus starts at 6.40am and the last bus leaves at 8.25pm. BMTC officials said that they will increase the scope of feeder bus operations to efficiently offer last-mile connectivity to metro passengers and added that they intend to them uniquely.

ECO-FRIENDLY ALTERNATIVES THIS DIWALI DON'T BURN CRACKERS, GROW THEM

PURAN CHOUDHARY @ Bengaluru



AFTER seed Ganesha, organic Holi colours and eco-friendly rakhis, citizens are now choosing to steer away from noisy and harmful crackers, and are seen turning to plantable crackers this Diwali. Using only cow dung diyas, organic incense sticks and eco-friendly decorations, the festival of lights in some ways has always been a sustainable affair. However, the entry of plantable crackers that can sprout into saplings in one's backyard can be a game-changer this November.

New, sustainable crackers include flowerpots, chakras, rockets, sparklers, and bombs, which, instead of using and releasing harmful chemicals like sulphur and phosphorus, store different seeds that can become saplings once planted.

Different crackers contain different seeds, for instance, the chakra will have 12-15 chia seeds, while the sparklers will sprout into a tulsi sapling, rockets will grow into marigold flowers and Laxmi bomb will store tomato seeds. All crackers are said to sprout in four to six weeks and have a germination chance of 70-75 per cent, provided they are watered regularly.

All alternative crackers are made using newspaper or other reusable paper which are sourced from different factories.

Roshan Ray, Founder, Seed Paper India, who sells plantable crackers said that there still needs to be more awareness created about these crackers, as only conscious

individuals will look at alternatives. "A lot of cracker injuries are reported during the season. Many children are just left to burst crackers without proper supervision. So far we've been getting a good response, we've sold over 3,000 plantable Laxmi bombs, rockets and more." He added that customers are also buying them to include in their Diwali hampers.

Plantable crackers can easily be sent through courier since it doesn't have any gunpowder, and makes for a great festive gift. Many NGOs, housing societies, hotels and individuals are opting to gift plantable crackers.

Nagesh Hedge, an environmentalist said, "Plantable crackers is quite an impressive concept, and they should be made available in the market on a large scale for customers. Any initiative that helps reduce noise pollution and ground pollution should be encouraged and used by all, especially youngsters."

Police Inspector's message goes viral

In a video that has gone viral on social media, Bandepalya Police Inspector LY Rajesh is urging people to donate the money they intended on spending on crackers this Diwali. In the video, he is sharing the pain of the students who died in the Attibele fire tragedy and said, "It is so painful that the students who wished to continue their education took up part-time jobs at the cracker shop in Attibele and lost lives. This Diwali, I will not burst crackers. However, the money I would have spent on crackers will be used to sponsor a needy student's education. Let's light the lives of needy students by donating this Diwali."

Stroke patients need better support to reduce long-term impact

NAMRATA SINDWANI @ Bengaluru

With hospitals seeing a 20-30 per cent rise in incidence of stroke among the younger age groups, doctors highlighted the need for providing treatment and after-care to stroke patients as they are more prone to long-term health issues.

Stroke specialist Dr Vikram Huded, Clinical Lead and Direc-

tor, Interventional Neurology, Narayana Health, said, "Incidence of stroke in general has increased in India affecting one in four people. Since a few years, instances of stroke in young people are also rising with around 20-30 per cent getting affected." Changes in lifestyle, stress, poor diet and no exercise leading to rise in obesity and high blood pressure have result-

ed in high incidence of stroke patients, now affecting citizens between 30-40 age group.

Doctors highlighted the need for providing treatment during the 'golden hour' or ensuring that a person is thrombolysed within a few hours to ensure the risk of suffering from long-term health impact is reduced. Despite having facilities to perform thrombolysis and thrombecto-

my, the number of people availing benefit from these is much lesser. Only 2-3 per cent might undergo thrombolysis and only 3,000-4,000 thrombectomies are done yearly across India, they said. In 60-70 per cent cases, people suffering from a severe stroke are more prone to developing long-term health issues.

Ahead of World Stroke Day, observed on Oct 29, Dr GT Sub-

has, president, Bangalore Stroke Support Group, said it is crucial to support people suffering from stroke along with their caregivers. Doctors are often seen focussing on the immediate treatment and end up ignoring the long-term implications. The stroke support group in the city has helped around 200 patients, with necessary care and guidance for stroke-related issues.

Woman loses ₹13L in online courier scam

PRAVEEN KUMAR @Bengaluru

A 62-year-old woman from Victoria Layout has fallen prey to an on-line courier scam, where the cyber criminals managed to extort Rs 13 lakh from the victim. The scammers scared her that there was a courier parcel to Thailand in her name, which had drugs in it.

The victim knew that she had not sent any parcel, and yet, fell prey after the accused told her Aadhaar Card number and threatened to initiate action if she did not act fast. The victim Priya, (name changed) fell prey to this trick, and transferred the money before realising that she had been scammed. She then went to the police station and filed a complaint.

The victim had received a call on Wednesday afternoon from one of the accused, claiming to be a courier company executive

from Mumbai. He told her that a package sent by her to Thailand, was found to have contained 140 grams of MDMA, eight passports, and five credit cards among other illegal objects. When the victim said that the package does not belong to her, the accused read out her Aadhaar number.

The accused further told her that the customs officials have confiscated the package, and she had to approach the Mumbai Cyber Crime police to raise a complaint. They even made her download Skype and sent her a link asking her to furnish all her personal details. The accused then gave her an account number asking her to transfer the money.

Next day, the victim went to the bank and transferred the money to the account number provided to her. After the money was received, the accused deleted all their details.



Firemen battle the blaze at Haj Bhavan in Hegdenagar, Bengaluru, on Saturday evening | VINOD KUMAR T

Fire breaks out at Haj Bhavan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

A major fire broke out at Haj Bhavan on Thanisandra Main Road around 4.30 pm on Saturday. Tragedy was averted as employees were not working because of the week-end holiday. Five fire tenders rushed to the spot and put out the fire within an hour.

"The cause of the fire is likely to be a short circuit, but we are yet to ascertain it," a police officer said. The building consists of a civil service training institute and was under renovation. The damage caused by the blaze is said to be over Rs 2.5 crore, said Sarfaraz Khan, executive officer of the Karnataka State Haj Committee. Kothanuru police have registered a case.



Citizens applaud Roopa Moudgil's photoshoot

Bengaluru: Roopa Moudgil, IGP (Internal Security) received much praise from netizens after a Navratri photoshoot for fashion designer Bhargavi Vikyathi went viral. She posed in a saree carrying a sword, showcasing that women are capable of being fierce and fashionable at the same time. Several citizens took to social media appreciating her look with comments like 'beautiful' and 'elegant'. **ENS**

Cybercrime victims check real-time status of complaints at police meet

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

TO empower cyber crime victims to become advocates for cyber safety, the South-East Division of Bengaluru Police organised a meeting on Saturday. Police engaged with the community to aid those who filed complaints across the division during the year and assured action on their cases. CK Baba, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South-East), emphasised the diverse demographic of the division, comprising students, working-class individuals and senior citizens, and stressed on the significance of providing a secure platform for them, urging people to trust the department. He also stressed on timely reporting of cyber crimes.

At the meeting at HSR Layout Police Station, victims had the opportunity to check the real-time status of their complaints. This initiative served as a counselling and self-help session, recognising that many individuals experience depression, anxiety, financial losses and concern about their reputation following cyber crimes. The primary goal of this initiative was to help victims overcome harrowing experiences of cyber crimes.

The officer emphasised that many people may be reluctant to report cyber crimes. However, they must realise that the police offers a secure platform, ensuring that their identities remain confidential. He emphasised that the victims must lodge complaint immediately after a fraud (known as the golden hour) as it helps in recovering the maximum amount from fraudsters.

CCTV MUST NEAR ALL ESTABLISHMENTS, SAYS TOP COP

CCTV must be installed near all establishments, said City Police Commissioner B Dayananda on Saturday during the Masika Janasamparka Divasa, an interaction programme with residents of North-East Division, including Yelahanka, Devanahalli and Bagalur. The officer stressed on the need for those installing CCTV cameras to collaborate with the local police to ensure optimal coverage and quality footage. He said, "CCTV cameras are like unseen policemen and must be installed at places where more than 100 people are present."

CRIME PATROL

Armed men rob two in separate incidents

Bengaluru: In separate incidents within a span of a few minutes, two people, including a 29-year-old woman, were robbed by a gang of four scooter-borne armed robbers in KiADB police station limits. One victim was robbed in KIADB Industrial Area while the other was robbed near Bellahalli village on the Yelahanka Road, on Wednesday evening. The accused approached the victims under the pretext of asking for an address, covered the victims and robbed them. The victims were left unharmed as they did not put up a fight and handed over the valuables. **ENS**

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Dean, Academics

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TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following properties mortgaged to City Union Bank Limited will be sold in Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of Rs.17,49,679/- (Rupees Seventeen Lakh Forty Nine Thousand Six Hundred and Seventy Nine only) as on 19-10-2023 together with further interest to be charged from 20-10-2023 onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors No.1) M/s. A M T Silk, No.226/433/45/2, Ward No.23, Tippu Nagar, Ramanagara - 562159. No.2) Mr. Amjad Khan, S/o. Ayub Khan, No.43, 3rd Cross, Tippu Nagar, Mohalla, Near Bismillah Circle, Ramanagara - 571511. No.3) Mrs. Kouser Banu, W/o. Amjad Khan, No.43, 3rd Cross, Tippu Nagar, Mohalla, Near Bismillah Circle, Ramanagara - 571511. No.4) Mrs. Shameen Taj, W/o. Ayub Khan, No.43, 3rd Cross, Tippu Nagar, Mohalla, Near Bismillah Circle, Ramanagara - 571511. Also, at Mrs. Shameen Taj, W/o. Ayub Khan, No.164/B, 3rd Cross Tippu Nagar, Bismillah Circle, Ramanagara - 562159.

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank
(Property Owned by Mrs. Shameen Taj, W/o. Ayub Khan)

All that piece and parcel of Property bearing Municipal Khata No.226/433/45/2 Measuring: East to West (40 Feet) and North to South (60 Feet) Situated at Kothipura Amarkere Ramanagara Town, Ramanagara District. Total extent of Plot 2.400 sq.ft. with Residential Building Constructed therein. Bounded on: East by: House of Sharif Saheb, West by: House of Khaleemulla, North by: Private Property, South by: Road.

Reserve Price : Rs.28,00,000/-
(Rupees Twenty Eight Lakh only)

AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
07-12-2023	City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch, B.M.Road, 316, I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru-Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural - 571511. Telephone No.080-27276688, Cell No.9379511195.

Terms and Conditions of Tender-cum-Auction Sale:

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself/herself. (2) The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Bengaluru-Ramanagara Branch, B.M.Road, 316, I Stage, Near Bus Stand, Bengaluru - Mysore Main Road, Ramanagara, Bengaluru Rural - 571511. (3) The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd., together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of 10% of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of "City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. (4) For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact Telephone No.080-27276688, Cell No.9379511195. (5) The property is sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever there is" basis. (6) The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at 01.00 p.m. on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be confirmed on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. (7) The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% (inclusive of EMD paid) of the Sale amount immediately on completion of sale and the balance amount of 75% within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of 25% shall be forfeited. (8) The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. (9) The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. (10) The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. (11) The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 27-10-2023 Authorised Officer

Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612001. CIN : L65110TN1904PLC001287, Telephone No.0435-2402322, Fax: 0435-2431746, Website: www.cityunionbank.com

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ADVERTISEMENT : FACULTY RECRUITMENT

Adv.No. IIITDM/KR/2023 dated: 24.10.2023

IIITDM Kancheepuram, located at Chennai (25km from airport) invites online applications for various faculty positions (Professors, Associate Professors, and Assistant Professors Grade I) under four tier flexible structure for various disciplines.

The applicants must have consistent academic record from reputed institutions with a commitment to teaching, research and product development.

Last date for receiving online applications is **05:00 P.M. on 30th November 2023**. Detailed advertisement and the procedure for applying online are available at Institute website www.iiitdm.ac.in.

Registrar

Government of Karnataka
SAMAGRA SHIKSHANA - KARNATAKA
Office of the State Project Director,
New Public Annex Building, Nrupathunga Road, Bangalore - 560 001.

No:SSK/Lib/BS/2023-24 Date : 27.10.2023

NOTICE

Samagra Shikshana Karnataka is inviting expression of interest from book Publishers to participate in State level book selection process for Government schools of Karnataka. Interested can visit the website <https://dsert.karnataka.gov.in>. or Contact: 8088433888 (Library Officer, DSERT) 9448999416 (Program Officer SSK)

Remarks: For further Link-
<https://dsert.karnataka.gov.in/info-4/Tenders/kn>

Sd/-
State Project Director,
DIPRC/SHIRDISA/1881-2022-23 Samagra Shikshana Karnataka, Bangalore.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

PALAKKAD DIVISION

E-Tender Notice No. PGT/OT/30/2023, Dated: 20.10.2023

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Senior Divisional Engineer / Co-ordination / Southern Railway / Palakkad invites E-TENDERS for the following works:

Sl. No	Name of the work	Approximate Cash value (₹) in lakhs	Bid Security Amount (₹)	Tender closing date 15.00 hrs on	Completion Period in Months
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of one year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 Zone "D I" - Senior Section Engineer/Permanent Way/Quilandi- from KM 688/30 Quilandi (Incl) to KM 735/070 Thalassery (Incl).	87.12	1,74,200/-	13.11.2023	Twelve
2	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of One year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "A-V"-Senior Section Engineer/Permanent Way/West/Podanur.	49.90	99,800/-	13.11.2023	Twelve
3	Palakkad division:- Provision of Escalators 2 nos at Mangalore Station (civil cost)	49.95	99,900/-	20.11.2023	Six
4	Palakkad:- Brightening up of staff quarters and service building in Palakkad colony and station area	358.86	3,29,400/-	20.11.2023	Twelve
5	Construction of New Rest House for Track Machines staff including women staff at CLT and CAN	88.57	1,77,200/-	13.11.2023	Six
6	Mangalore Central-Provision of Sickline facilities in the Old Loco trip shed.	181.13	2,40,600/-	13.11.2023	Nine
7	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of One year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "A-VI"-Senior Section Engineer/Permanent Way/West/Palakkad	49.90	99,800/-	20.11.2023	Twelve
8	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of One year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "E I"-Senior Section Engineer/Bridge/Kannur (Feroke- Mangalore & Mangalore -Panambur section).	80.00	1,60,000/-	20.11.2023	Twelve
9	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of One year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "C-IV"-Senior Section Engineer/Permanent Way/Tirur	49.56	99,100/-	20.11.2023	Twelve
10	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of One year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "D-II"-Senior Section Engineer/Permanent Way/Calicut	75.01	1,50,000/-	20.11.2023	Twelve
11	Zonal contract for execution of works and supply of materials in Palakkad Division for a period of One year from 01.07.2023 to 30.06.2024 - Zone "C-III"-Senior Section Engineer/Permanent Way/Shoranur.	74.75	1,49,500/-	20.11.2023	Twelve

12	Senior Section Engineer/ Permanent Way/Shoranur section-Widening cess and standardization of embankment work at various locations between km 578.670-609.210 UP and Dn line	305.37	3,02,700/-	29.11.2023	Nine
13	Senior Section Engineer/ Permanent Way/Tirur-Widening of cess and standardization of embankment work at various locations between km 609.210-653/900 on Up and Down lines	458.05	3,79,000/-	29.11.2023	Nine
14	Senior Section Engineer/Pway/ Calicut sub section-1- Widening of cess and standardization of embankment work at various locations between km 653/900-669/400 on UP and Down line	425.52	3,62,800/-	29.11.2023	Nine
15	Senior Section Engineer/Pway/ Calicut sub section 2- Widening of cess and standardization of embankment work at various locations between km 669/400-688/300 on UP and Down line	425.52	3,62,800/-	29.11.2023	Nine
16	Senior Section Engineer/ PWay /Payyanur sub section-1- Widening of cess and standardization of embankment work at various locations between km 776/500-802/550 on Up and Down lines.	430.70	3,65,400/-	29.11.2023	Nine
17	Senior Section Engineer/ PWay /Payyanur sub section-2- Widening of cess and standardization of embankment work at various locations between km 802/550-821/600 on Up and Down lines.	430.70	3,65,400/-	29.11.2023	Nine
18	Senior Section Engineer/ Pway/Kasaragod sub section-1- widening of cess and standardization of embankment work at various locations between km 821/600-846/200 on Up and Down line	463.60	3,81,800/-	29.11.2023	Nine
19	Senior Section Engineer/ Pway/Kasaragod sub section-2- widening of cess and standardization of embankment work at various locations between km 846/200-871/300 on Up and Down line	463.60	3,81,800/-	29.11.2023	Nine
20	DEN / East Jurisdiction - Provision of Lifts at Panapanangadi (2 Nos) , Shoranur (1 No.) & Tirur (1 No.) Stations under Amrut Bharat Scheme, (Total - 4 Nos)	112.97	2,06,500/-	13.11.2023	Eight
21	Sr DEN/ West Jurisdiction - Provision of Lifts at Feroke (2 Nos), Mahe (2 Nos) & Payyanur (3 Nos) Stations under Amrut Bharat Scheme, (Total - 7 Nos)	188.15	2,44,100/-	13.11.2023	Eight
22	Palakkad Division - Provision of 2 nos of Lifts at Kannapuram Station	50.92	1,01,900/-	13.11.2023	Six

1. All the contracts on Works/goods/services will be subject to the new GST Act as applicable from time to time.
2. Contractors/Suppliers have to register themselves with GST authorities and to furnish the GST registration number in order to process the bills from 01.7.2017 onwards.
3. For complete details of the above tenders please visit Web site <http://www.ireps.gov.in>.

Note: It is the responsibility of the Tenderer to check any corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in website; the same shall be taken in to account while submitting Tender.

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'STORIES AND STORYTELLING IS IN OUR BLOOD'

WELL-known poet, playwright, folklorist Chandra

drashekara Kambara says Kannada should be taught as a medium of instruction till primary school. At 86, the Padma Bhushan and Jnanpith awardee spends nearly two hours every day writing. Though he is living in Bengaluru at present, his heart is in his village in Belagavi. The chairman of the Kendra Sahitya Akademi says Indian languages are the most creative in the world. "We Indians have the ability to tell the same stories in different ways. This is because Indian languages are highly creative," he told *TNSE* editors and staff during an interaction. He had also served as foundervice-chancellor of Kannada University in Hampi. Excerpts.

Do you think the patronage of central and state governments is needed for languages and literature to flourish?

Not at all. Vachana Sahitya came to the fore (in the 12th century). But tell me, which emperor contributed to its growth? Yet, so much literature was created. All Kannadigas, regardless of their caste and creed, got together and created it. People used to accept literature if it was good and relevant. It has been the world's best literature and has been translated into 80 languages. One should not make excuses for not creating literature and blame lack of patronage.

In your works, women characters get prominence. Is it true with society too?

In villages, you may snub women, but their role remains significant. The patriarchal system came into our country after Muslim kings invaded us. I can tell you stories about it.

Has the mindset of readers changed over the years?

Readers now find many options, like cellphones, where

stories can be told. In our country, we just cannot live without stories.

But the craze for English has affected Indian languages. People seem to be losing their affection towards regional languages? How to overcome it?

Yes, it has happened and it is quite natural. That is because English has been touched by power. Since Macaulay's time, we have been struggling to overcome this. We should realise one thing... There is no creativity without Indian languages. That is our supremacy. Most of the stories are born in India, and that is because stories and storytelling is in our blood.

Do today's children, who are exposed to TV and internet, have storytelling skills?

The exposure is contributing to story killing, because it dictates a story should be told in a particular way, like this and that. But India's strength is in its orality. There are around 2 lakh stories in the world and all were born in India. Others are only borrowing it.

What do you say about the new genre of writers?

They have lot of scope and opportunities. When we were small kids, a man from Belagavi town had brought a radio to our village and we were all after him. The stories coming from the radio were unimaginable to us those days. Radio and TV were new. We thought there might be human beings inside it. People used to refer to it in 'Bayaalata' plays staged in those times. When new things come, they bring about a change.

Do tech advancements help language and literature grow?

Technology gives speed to story telling. One can also communicate gestures. Technology is certainly advantageous. Don't we tell stories over cell phones? It is happening and it has not become stagnant. Whatever the changes, our story telling gets adapted to it. It is our strength.



EXPRESS Dialogues

What should the government do to popularise Kannada language?

The medium of teaching till Class 7 should be Kannada. Every subject should be taught in Kannada. After that, if possible, extend it till SSLC. If the government does this, the students will not only learn Kannada, but also be more creative. They will start telling English stories in Kannada. During my stint with Kannada University, we published subject textbooks in Kannada. They were sold quickly across the state. Students would read the lessons in Kannada and write exams in English. They would understand the subject very well as it was in their mother tongue. This is possible for our government, but they don't do it. If we have been successful, why not the government?

What about higher education like medicine and engineering? Should that be too in mother tongue?

It will be good. But teachers have a craze for English. They feel that if they teach in English, students hold them in high regard. They have such an inferiority complex.

What is your take on the Sarojini Mahishi report, which recommends reservation in jobs in the private sector for Kannadigas?

This is our mother land. The authorities concerned should

decide the percentage of reservation. There are people who have migrated here from other states and they too want to learn Kannada. Fighting over languages is foolish to the core. All are our languages.

What about the controversy over the imposition of Hindi?

There is a competition between two groups as to who is more foolish. As the Sahitya Academy chairman for two terms, I had to speak in English to run the organisation.

What do you say about some writers returning awards to protest against the government?

It is okay to return the awards and there is no need to give undue importance to such instances. It is left to the writers, whether to keep the awards or return them.

How do you look at Bengaluru, where languages other than Kannada are heard more often?

There are many outsiders here and that is why many languages are spoken here. The strength of one language passes on to other languages. Our stories can be told in many languages. It is we who taught the British how to tell stories.

Most stories originated from rural areas. But people from villages are migrating to urban areas. Do you think that would impact our storytelling abilities?

We cannot prevent migration. I am from a rural background. I have travelled across the globe. But there is nothing like my village. It is such an amazing life. But we have to accept that that life is going away. People are not willing to stay back in villages.

What is the status of Kannada theatre?

People compare cinema to theatre. Now, nobody goes to watch plays in villages. We used to walk miles to watch plays in neighbouring villages.

Many writers got threat calls and letters. How dangerous is this trend?

This is not a good trend.

What is your message to the government for Kannada Rajyotsava? What should be done for the growth of Kannada?

As governments change, policies change and they change textbooks. They did it this time, and brought back old textbooks. They should not play with the future of children. Let political parties play their politics somewhere else, but not over textbooks and language. It has an adverse impact on children who are in the process of learning. If a child gets a story told by his teacher, he narrates it to his mother, friends and different people in different ways. Our language is so creative that one story can be narrated in a variety of ways. That is the strength of Indian languages. Christians, who had arrived here to propagate their religion, were amused by this. There are innumerable versions of Ramayana and Mahabharata and it is a testimony to the creativity of our country. Wherever you go, you find varieties of stories.

This year, 68 people will get Kannada Rajyotsava awards...

Artists and writers should be given awards. There are many awards for cinema people. While giving Rajyotsava awards, if our artists are given priority, they will feel encouraged. They should be considered.

You met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, what are his views on languages?

He loves and respects languages. He encourages them.

BJP state president Nalin Kumar Kateel said a Karnataka BJP team will visit each district and study the causes of farmer suicides and drought and submit a report by November 10

DON'T LET BIG BOOM-DESTINED TIER-2 CITIES GO THE B'LURU WAY



A quick stroll down Hubballi's Koppikar Road or commercial hubs in Mysuru, Mangaluru, Belagavi or Kalaburagi reveals the phenomenal growth of our tier-II cities in the past decade. They are poised for a big boom in the future.

It may take a while for these cities to catch up with Bengaluru, but if the administration fails, they could be faced with all the problems that the state capital is confronted with today.

It is a natural outcome when exponential growth precedes planning. To avoid such a situation, the powers that be who keep blather about building 'Brand Bengaluru' or changing the names of neighbouring districts, need to come up with a clear long-term vision for all our tier-2 cities. Preparing a vision document by involving the citizenry and urban planners, and taking measures to put the plan into action, would help ensure that the growth is not haphazard as has happened in Bengaluru.

That becomes all the more important as the state government is taking several initiatives to woo investors to look "beyond Bengaluru". Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM) which is also working on taking industries to other cities in the state, sees emerging clusters in Hubballi-Dharwad-Belagavi for artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), Internet of Things (IoT) and advanced manufacturing, Mangaluru for fintech and Mysuru for cyber security.

While investments coming from outside and a big pool of talented manpower in tier-2 cities will power development, the government's intervention is required to ensure such development is well-planned. Systematic, all-round development can make life much better for residents, and ease the burden on the state capital, while tier-2 cities can emerge as manufacturing, industrial, or financial hubs in this part of the country.

In the last few years, most of them have got air connectivity, which can help unlock their economic potential at a faster pace. Most of them are also well connected with good road and rail networks.

Immediate past president of Karnatak Chamber of Commerce and Industry Hubballi, Vinay Javali, terms Hubballi as a big trading hub for North Karnataka, and feels that city planners must have a larger perspective by taking into consideration the problems faced by Bengaluru.

The twin cities (Hubballi-Dharwad) have firmly established themselves as an education hub by hosting top institutions, including the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) and the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT). Direct train connectivity between Dharwad and Belagavi, which now takes a circuitous route via Londa, will further boost economic activities in Hubballi-Dharwad, plonked right in between the Bengaluru-Mumbai Industrial Corridor — one among the 11 being developed by the Central Government.

Unfortunately, town/city planning agencies are barely engineered for long-term planning. District in-charge ministers, parliamentarians, legislators, and those in urban local bodies must play a greater role, not just confine themselves to working on a budget-to-budget or election-to-election basis.

Along with building roads and flyovers that can cater to today's requirements, there is an urgent need to prepare a roadmap for future development and start taking steps in that direction.

There is a need for systematic development of new layouts with wider roads and better civic amenities, planning outer ring roads to evenly spread development and decongest the cities; segregation of industries for better handling of effluents; and planning for meeting future drinking water requirements by taking into consideration the growth ahead, instead of digging wells when taps go dry.

The administration also needs to take measures to address concerns over air quality in many of these cities, which is deteriorating with rapid industrialisation and increase in the number of vehicles; and better rainwater harvesting mechanisms, measures to avoid flooding, and solid waste management.

Some of these issues may not sound serious enough right now to require long-term planning or intervention. But, look at Bengaluru's struggle to cope with basic issues. With all its technological prowess, Fortune 500 firms, unicorns, and the tag of being innovation and start-up capital of India, its roads and areas in low-lying areas get flooded during heavy rains, solid waste management is a Herculean task for civic agencies, and traffic congestion remains a major challenge. "Namma Metro" is easing the congestion to an extent in the corridors where it operates, but it will take time for it to reach many high-density corridors.

Some cities like Mysuru may have wider roads, ring roads, and industrial areas that can handle growth in the near future. But it is important to get a comprehensive growth assessment of all tier-2 cities. We need to assess where we want to see them in the coming decades and ensure their planned growth. They cannot be allowed to go the Bengaluru way.

'Dalit CM issue not discussed'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

PARAMESHWARA told reporters, "It was a courtesy meeting over dinner. We spoke in general at length, but no politics was discussed. The Dalit CM issue did not come up for discussion at all." Though it was a marathon meeting lasting till 12.30 am, the leaders, including Siddaramaiah and Mahadevappa, maintained that no politics was discussed.

Asked about holding the meeting without Shivakumar, Siddaramaiah said in Mangaluru, "Why are you asking like that? He (Parameshwara) invited us for dinner, and we went. Why do you put masala? We spoke in general and no politics was discussed. It is the media and opposition parties painting it otherwise."

But Jarkiholi promptly revealed that politics was discussed and he attended the dinner meeting at Siddaramaiah's insistence. "We cannot deny that politics was not discussed when we sat for dinner. Next time, I will call the DCM when I host a dinner," he told reporters.

Asked about a change in the chief minister post, Mahadevappa shot back, saying, "Are you crazy, Siddaramaiah will be the CM for five years."

Political analysts said that in case a change is proposed to the top post, Siddaramaiah is likely to play the Dalit card against Shivakumar and that was the reason he is making use of Parameshwara.

BJP tactics will not work now: Siddu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mangaluru/Udupi

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday said though he has no information about the BJP trying to lure Congress MLAs with ministerial berths and Rs 50 crore each, he has information that the saffron party is trying to destabilise his government.

Asked about Mandya MLA Ravi Ganiga's explosive statement, the CM told mediapersons in Mangaluru Airport to ask the question to the one who made the statement.

Later in Udupi, he said BJP might have successfully engineered defections through 'Operation Kamala' once to form the government, but said the same tactic will not work again.

"It is true that the BJP is trying



Chief Minister Siddaramaiah inaugurates the World Bunts' Convention at Mahatma Gandhi district stadium, Ajjarakad, in Udupi on Saturday | EXPRESS

ing to destabilise the Congress government in the state, but it will not be successful. No Congress MLAs will fall into their trap though it may go to any extent to get back to power. BJP leaders may be daydreaming to form the government in the state again," he said.

Siddaramaiah slammed the

Centre for not releasing funds towards drought relief and alleged that Union ministers are not even giving appointments to the state minister to discuss the topic.

"We have given a memorandum to the Centre stating that 116 taluks are drought-hit and the state has suffered losses of

emerge from the Congress. There was a 'dinner meet' in this regard in which Siddaramaiah and (Home Minister) Dr G Parameshwara were present. Soon, resort politics will begin in the state," he said.

At a press conference earlier, Kateel attacked the state government, accusing it of indulging in hate politics. "After the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government came to power, the government has been interfering in the rights of elected representatives by booking cases for criticising the government. Our party workers, Hindutva leaders and elected representatives are being targeted. Earlier, a Lok Sabha MP in Kolar was assaulted by police personnel and MLA Harish Poonja was booked for raising his voice

against injustice to people. Poonja had stopped the eviction of a poor farmer's house by forest officials. MLC Prathap Simha Nayak too was manhandled. Now, another FIR has been lodged against Poonja over a Facebook post. The state government is targeting patriots, while anti-nationals who raise 'pro-Pakistan' slogans are being let go scot-free," he said.

On allegations of his involvement in the Rs 2.5-crore cash-for-ticket case in Vijayapura, Kateel clarified that those involved have already said he has no role in the case. On allegations of 'step-motherly attitude by the Union government in disbursing drought relief, Kateel said after the central team completes the survey, relief will be provided to the state.

Big conspiracy to destabilise govt: DKS

Bengaluru: Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Saturday said there is a big conspiracy to destabilise the Congress government in the state, but the BJP will not succeed in its efforts. To a question about his party MLA Ravi Ganiga's allegations that Congress MLAs were offered money to join the BJP, the DyCM said he is aware of such developments. "We are aware of the conspiracy. Many big leaders are behind it, but nothing will happen," he said. He said, "MLAs should not issue statements about the party's internal issues, government or power. If such statements are issued in future, it will become inevitable for me to issue notice to them." **ENS**

Factions will bring down govt: Kateel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mangaluru

DAKSHINA Kannada MP and state BJP president Nalin Kumar Kateel on Saturday said the Congress government in the state will fall due to internal politics as it is divided between three factions of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy CM D K Shivakumar and PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi.

Responding to a media query on allegations made by a Congress MLA that the BJP offered Rs 50 crore as part of Operation Lotus to destabilise the state government, Kateel said there is no need for any Operation Lotus as internal politics within the Congress will itself bring down the government. "In a few months, three groups will

EXPRESS READ

CM presents Valmiki awards, says separate secretariat for STs soon

Bengaluru: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the government will set up a separate secretariat for the implementation of welfare programmes for scheduled tribes. He was speaking after inaugurating a programme to mark Maharishi Valmiki Jayanti at Vidhana Soudha and presentation of the Maharshi Valmiki awards. During the previous Congress government (2013-2018), a decision was taken to allocate grants to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes proportionate to their population. "Therefore, more funds could be spent under the SCSP and TSP schemes. Earlier, only Rs 6,000 crore grant was allocated under these schemes. But during our previous term, this amount was hiked to Rs 30,000 crore annually," he said. He alleged that the previous BJP government did not increase the allocation but the present Congress government hiked it to Rs 34,000 crore. The awards were conferred on eight achievers in various fields. Valmiki Prasannanandpur swami of Rajanahalli Gurepeetha and ministers were present. **ENS**

BJP leader booked 'misbehaving' with woman journalist

ENS @ Kozhikode

THE police have registered a case against actor and BJP leader Suresh Gopi on a complaint filed by a woman journalist who accused him of misbehaving with her while addressing reporters in Kozhikode on Friday. The journalist, who works for a TV news channel, lodged the complaint with the Kozhikode city police commissioner, who handed it over to Nadakkavu police.

The case has been registered under Section 354 A of the IPC, for outraging the modesty of a woman. "I asked him (the actor) questions about contesting in Thrissur, among other things. He called me 'mole' (daughter) and patted me on my shoulder. I was shocked and didn't know what to do or what was going on. At that point, I backed off. I tried to remove his hand from my shoulder," the journalist said in a video.

"The media interaction continued and I again asked questions. His reaction was the same and he placed his hand on my shoulder again. The behaviour was mentally troubling. I pushed his hand away," she said.

Meanwhile, Gopi tendered an apology. "I treated the woman with affection in front of the media. I have never been disrespectful of anyone in my life on and off the public stage. However, what the woman feels about it (my behaviour) should be respected. I apologise if she felt bad or suffered mentally in any way. Sorry..." Gopi said in a Facebook post.



RAILWAYS BETS ON NEW MODEL TO GIVE ALL VB-LIKE COMFORT

B ANBUSELVAN @ Chennai

THE Integral Coach Factory in Chennai has come out with the prototype of India's first push-pull rake that will have engines on both ends. It can be operated at a speed of 130 kmph with 22 non-AC coaches. The train, which is yet to be given an official name, is expected to be introduced on long-distance routes for mass transportation of both reserved and unreserved passengers. The train is aimed at providing Vande Bharat-like travelling experience to non-AC passengers, particularly interstate workers, railway sources said.

Marking the completion of the manufacturing of the train, a 22-car rake carried out speed trials between Villivakkam and Arakkonam on Thursday. The existing LHB (Linke Hoffmann Busch) coaches, which are in use for operating express trains, can be operated at a speed of 130 kmph. But when pulling more than 20 non-AC LHB coaches, they create significant noise and operational difficulties, official sources



said. "The newly designed push-pull rake will power the train from both ends and is capable of carrying 22 coaches at 130 kmph without making much noise. The rake comprises 12 three-tier sleeper coaches and eight second-sitting coaches, all linked with semi-permanent couplers to provide a jerk-free experience unlike LHB coaches," an official said.

The prototype will undergo testing and trial runs over the next few months. The Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO), the technical body of the railways, will study the train. "Once RDSO approves the train, the rake will be introduced in sections where there is high demand," the official said.

DKS invites KCR to inspect guarantees in K'taka

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Hyderabad

CONGRESS leader and Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar (DKS) on Saturday offered to provide a bus for Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao so that he could verify whether the promises made by the grand old party have been honoured or not.

Stating that he was standing just about 10 km from the Karnataka-Telangana border, he challenged the BRS supremo to disprove whether the five guarantees of the Congress



Karnataka DyCM DK Shivakumar at an election campaign in Tandur as part of the Vijayabheri bus yatra of the Congress on Saturday | EXPRESS

were not being implemented in his state. "Today, I have come here to request KCR to come along with his Cabinet minis-

ters to Karnataka which is 10 km from here. You (KCR) see every house, whether they are getting whatever we have prom-

ised or not," Shivakumar challenged, addressing a corner meeting at Tandur as part of the Vijayabheri bus yatra of the Congress.

Addressing the massive crowds, Shivakumar said that the history of the Congress is the country's history and the country's strength is Congress strength. He added that when Congress comes to power, all sections of society will come to power. "While giving a separate state around 10 years ago, Sonia Gandhi didn't look at the party coming to power. Today, it's time to show gratitude to her," Shivakumar said.

EXPRESS READ

Kharge slams Centre on ED raids in Rajasthan

KALABURAGI: AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday hit out at the BJP-led Union Government on the recent Directorate of Enforcement raids on Rajasthan Congress chief Govind Singh Dotasra and party candidate from Mahua Assembly constituency Omprakash Hudla. Speaking with reporters at Kalaburagi Airport, Kharge said that the Centre was trying to demoralise Congress and I.N.D.I.A bloc parties by conducting such raids. "The Congress will not budge to such threats and will continue to follow its principles. But the Centre needs to introspect its ill-deeds after the results of the elections to five state assemblies are declared," the veteran Congress leader said. On completing one year as Congress chief, Kharge said that he is satisfied with his work. On challenges before him ahead of the upcoming elections to five state assemblies and the Lok Sabha, Kharge said that he will face all challenges with courage. Kharge said he would start campaigning in the five poll-bound states from Telangana on October 29. On being asked about Karnataka having a different chief minister after two-and-a-half-years, Kharge refused to reply and said the question should be asked to CM Siddaramaiah. **ENS**

Police acted swiftly, arrested accused within 24 hrs: Min

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

HE was caught red-handed. During the interrogation, he revealed that his brother Ambarish was dictating the answers through a mobile phone, sitting in a car outside the exam centre. He also said that RD Patil helped his brother get the written answer scripts.

The police filed a case against Trimurti (accused 1), his brother Ambarish (accused 2) and RD Patil (accused 3). Both Trimurti and RD Patil hail from Sanna village of Afzalpur taluk. Another candidate Abhishek was also arrested in Kalaburagi, police sources said. Kalaburagi SP Adduru Srinivasulu told *TNSE* that they arrested three persons in Afzalpur in connection with writing the exam using bluetooth and FIRs are being registered against them.

Yadgir SP G Sangeeta released a press note, stating that they arrested nine candidates

hailing from Afzalpur taluk and Vijayapura district. The candidates were appearing for the exam at New Kannada PU College, Saba PU College, Government PU College for Girls, LKET PU College for Girls and Mahatma Gandhi PU college. The investigation is underway, and more details will be available on Sunday, the SP stated. The exam is being conducted to fill up vacant FDA posts in different boards and corporations. The exams will be held on Sunday also.

Rural Development Minister Priyank Kharge told *The New Sunday Express* that the police acted swiftly and arrested the accused within 24 hours. "The government will take appropriate action after receiving reports from the Kalaburagi and Yadgir police. We unearthed the PSI scam when we were in opposition. Now we are in government and we will act as per law and will not allow innocent people to suffer," he said.

Victim blocked from accessing Telegram group

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

On September 13, Amit received a message saying, "We offer a part-time work-from-home job opportunity that pays Rs 5,000-7,000 each day upon completion of tasks including

liking, sharing, and subscribing to YouTube videos to promote the channel."

Amit was told that the scheme was 'prepaid' only after he joined the Telegram group. He was removed from the WhatsApp group where the Tele-

gram link was initially shared. He first invested Rs 1,000 and earned a return of Rs 1,500. With higher investment, tasks, and targets escalated. Once the targets were met, participants received returns that doubled their investments, the officer

explained. Having earned the money, Amit took the risk and invested Rs 5.22 lakh, transferring money to 10 different bank accounts. But soon after, he was blocked from accessing the Telegram group.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that **SRI.MANJUNATHA.M.N.** is the owner of immovable property mentioned in the schedule hereunder and he has lost the original Sale Deed dated 20/6/2022 bearing Document No.1640/2022-23, Book-1, stored in CD 1167 executed by Sri.Shivanna in favour of Sri.Venkataramu registered in the office of sub-registrar, Magadi, pertaining to the schedule property. In case anybody having any claims or in possession of the said document, shall inform the under signed and handover the same within **SEVEN DAYS** from the date of publication of this notice.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of land measuring **0.01.04 guntas in Old Survey No.145/24, New Survey No.145/25, situated at Thirumale Village, Kasaba Hobli, Magadi Taluk, Ramangana District, and bounded on: East by: Land belong to Kum.Swamy.H, West by: Road, North by: Property of Annappa.Ram, South by: land in Sy.No.145/3.**

N.JAGADESH KUMAR, Advocate
No.301, 2nd Floor, 7th Cross, Near NR Colony Bus Stand, Opp. Hotel Dwaraka, Bangalore - 560019. Cell # 9341261700.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(LOSS OF ORIGINAL SALE DEED PAGE No. 2 & 4)

It is informed to the public that my client **Mr. HANUMANTHARAYA K.** aged about 50 years, S/o. Mr. Late. Kunibayalappa, R/at No. 34, 2nd Cross, Sampangramayya Layout, Near Samuel Public School Halehalli, K.R. Pura, Bangalore-560 036, has sworn to an Affidavit before me on 05.10.2023 and filed a complaint with police, for having lost the original Absolute Sale Deed page No. 2 & 4, sub-registrar allotted page No. 3, 4 & 7 in Document No. 5695/2011-12, dated 31.10.2011, regd. in the office of the Sub Registrar, Bidarahalli, Bangalore, pertaining to Western Portion of Site No. 30, Assessment/Katha No. 1434, Property No. 15/2, situated at Halehalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore District, measuring East to West: 15 feet and North to South: 40 feet, in totally measuring 600 sq. feet, while shifting the house and not to be traced. The findings of the above original document page No. 2 & 4, are requested to return the same to my below-mentioned address within 7 days.

K.B.Sadha Shivappa, Advocate & Notary,
Office at No. 300/2, Near Sri Ram Hospital, Opp. traffic Police Station, Old Madras Road, K.R.Puram, BANGALORE-560 036.
Mobile: 9845460976/9844078760
Date: 28.10.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client intends to Purchase the below Schedule Property from its owners **SRI.PRITAM BATATA AND OTHERS**, S/o:late Chandulal Madhavadas Bhatija, Residing at No.504, Ocean View, 289/B, Union Park, opp hotel Pali Hills Khar, West Mumbai-600014. Having acquired the same by way of inheritance.

If anyone having Claim, right over the SCHEDULE PROPERTY may inform the same to the undersigned within 07Days failing which it will be deemed that nobody else has claim over the property.

SCHEDULE A PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of immovable property old No.2/2A, New No.2/B, Artillery Road, Civil Station, Bangalore measuring on the East 50ft., West 60 ft., North 98 ft., and South 98 ft. AND BOUNDED ON:
EAST BY : Remaining Portion of new No.2/B.
WEST BY : Artillery Road,
NORTH BY : Private property;
SOUTH BY : Common Passage

SCHEDULE B PROPERTY
Flat No.A, Municipal No.2/B, in the ground floor with one bed room flat with verified tiles flooring along with 700 Sq built up area constructed in Schedule A Property presently bearing BBMP PID No.75-61-2/8, coming within the limits of Ward No.75/Joushpalya BBMP along with 550Sq.ft undivided share title interest in the immovable property mentioned in Schedule A Property. Along with a covered car parking space in the ground floor.

B.B.SUDHIR, ADVOCATE
No. 334, 99th Main, 14th Cross, Indiranagar, BANGALORE-560038.
Mob:98450 22593

GOA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(A GOVERNMENT OF GOA UNDERTAKING)
Paryatan Bhavan, 3rd Floor, Patto, Panaji, Goa-403 001
CIN:U55101GA1982SGC000480 Ph: (0832) 2437132/2437728 Fax: 2437433
Website: www.goa-tourism.com E-mail: md@goa-tourism.com

BRIEF TENDER NOTICE (E-TENDERING MODE ONLY)
No. GTDC/MKTG/2023-24/924/3988 Date: 27/10/2023
RFP for Empanelment of Event Management cum Advertising Agencies for Goa Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. (GTDC)
Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) invites Request for Proposal from eligible firms/agencies for Empanelment of Event Management cum Advertising Agencies for Goa Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. (GTDC). Agencies interested in applying for the tender may submit their duly filled application with complete information as required as per the RFP document. The last date for submission of the e-tender is 28.11.2023 up to 5.30 pm. For detailed Tender Notice and for participation in e-tender please visit our e-tender website <https://eprocure.goa.gov.in>. Tender notice is also available on www.goa-tourism.com for reference. All queries may be emailed to md@goa-tourism.com
Sd/- Managing Director, GTDC

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General public that our clients intend to purchase all the piece and parcel of vacant site No.15/A, in Sy.No.40/2, Hegganahalli village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bengaluru North taluk, BBMP Ward No.71, measuring East-West : (55'6" + 57'6")/2 feet. North-South : 30 feet, and bounded on the East by : Private property, West by : Road, North by: Site No.15 of Satish, South by: Property of Y M Krishnamurthy and Y K Lokesh with its owners **MR. Y M KRISHNAMURTHY, S/o Late B Muniswamappa, and MR. Y K LOKESH**, son of Y M Krishnamurthy. Any person/s asserting any kind of right, title, interest or claims of any sort towards the Sale transaction may file their objections or claims with documentary proof thereof with the undersigned within **THREE** days from the date of this publication, failing which our clients will proceed to complete the transaction without being liable for any claims put forth thereof.

PRAROP LAW K.R.PRADIP ADVOCATE
#31/9, 'NCP Tower', I Floor, I Main, Mount Joy extension, Hanumanthnagar, Bengaluru - 19. Phone : 9886012455
E-mail : praroplaw@gmail.com
Bengaluru, Date: 28/10/2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client intends to purchase the below mentioned Properties/Lands from owners **Smt Dharini Eswar**, aged about 55 years, W/o **Sri Eswar Seshasayee and Miss Shambavi Eswar**, residing in Bangalore. If any person/s have any manner of right, title, claim, dispute, charge, lien, interest, or any lawful objection/s over the scheduled property, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing along with photocopies of documents which they are relying, with the undersigned within **7** days from the date of the publication. Any objection or claims received thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client shall proceed to purchase the below mentioned property as if there are no claimant/s or objectors
The above said Property is situated in Site Number 24, with land measuring 4000 sq feet and the house constructed on it, having total built-up area of 2665 sq. feet located at Sy No. 72, which is situated at Agara Village, Kengri, Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk Bangalore District-560082.

LOKESHA S. Advocate.
#1569, 7th Main, 4th Cross, Hampinagara, Bengaluru 560 104, Ph: 8779670633
PH: 9632522932, 080-23111115

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that my client intends to purchase residential **house property bearing No.102, of "E" Block** situated in Rajajinagar HSBCL Layout, SRIGANDHADHA KAVAL VILLAGE, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, more fully described in the schedule given hereunder from **Mr. SHANKAR H R** aged about 53 years S/o Mr. Ramakrishna, residing at No. 102, E Block, Rajajinagar HSBCL layout, Sriganadadakavali, Bangalore - 560091. If any person has any claim or any objections in the matter of the sale of the Schedule Property, may contact the undersigned within **15 days** from the date of this notice, failing which it would be presumed that there are no claims over the said property.

SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of the residential **house property bearing No.102, of "E" Block** in the Layout formed by Rajajinagar Housing Co-operative Society Ltd., Situated at SRIGANDHADHA KAVAL VILLAGE, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, **measuring East to West 40-0 ft and North to South 30-0 ft, totally 1200 Sq. ft.**, with residential house Ground, First, Second, and Third Floor building totally measuring 4500 Sq.ft, constructed thereon and bounded on:
East by :: Road. West by :: Site No. 117.
North by :: Site No. 101. South by :: Site No. 103.
Place: Bengaluru, Dated: 28.10.2023

ANAND. R. SUDI, Advocate
No. 26, 2nd Main, Subbanna Garden, Vijayanagar, Bangalore - 560 040. Ph : 9845770467

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD.,
15/1, Hayes Centre, Hayes Road, Bangalore -560025. Ph: 080-43003651

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of L.I.C. Housing Finance Ltd (LIC HFL), under Securitization & Reconstructions of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 had issued Demand Notice to following Borrowers/Mortgagors calling upon them to repay the outstanding due amount mentioned in the said notices. However, The Borrowers/Mortgagors having failed to repay the said due amount, the undersigned has taken PHYSICAL POSSESSION of the following properties in exercise of powers conferred U/s 13(4) and U/s 14 of the said Act read with the Rule 8 of the said Rules.

Loan No./ Name of Borrower/Co-Borrower	Property Address and Flat Area/ UDS of land
M/s. Regaliaa Buildtech & Mr. Anup Shyam Karnani, M/s. Regaliaa Buildtech (Regaliaa) Loan No. 411900012004 & 411900013088	SCHEDULE PROPERTY-'A': All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted bearing: Survey No.132/1B admeasuring 9.76 guntas, Survey No.132/1A admeasuring 19.99 guntas, Survey No.133/2 admeasuring 28.02 guntas, Survey No.133/1 admeasuring 32.27 guntas, Survey No.134/1 admeasuring 10.91 guntas,i.e. admeasuring in the aggregate 2 acres 21 guntas all of and situated in Nagawara Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District, in the State of Karnataka and bounded as follows; On or towards the North: by Proposed 100 Ft Approach road / Tanisandra Main Road, On or towards the South: by portion of Sy No.132/2 On or towards the East: by proposed 100' wide Tanisandra main road. On or towards the West: by remaining property of the owner, SCHEDULE PROPERTY-'B' : 60% of undivided share right, title & interest in the Second Schedule 'A' property, measuring 66.129 sq.ft and the super built-up area to be constructed thereon, (1) Comprising of shopping area, anchor area, food court and stalls, etc. In the basement to the seventh floor (Excluding hotel area fallen to the share of land owner) - 133377.69 sq ft (2) Share in multiplex (undivided by metes and bounds) - 50318.64 sq ft. Total Developers Share/Area -181472.71 sq ft (3) 60% of Car parking spaces in the building. SCHEDULE PROPERTY-'B' : Undivided share of 60% in land admeasuring in the aggregate 2 Acres 20.95 Gunthas (the said plots of Land), all of and situated in Nagavara Village, kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District, in the State of Karnataka, Bengaluru 560077, more described as Schedule "A" Property amounting to 66,129 sq ft and 60% area allotted to the share of developer in the gross super built up area of 50,708.96 sq mtrs as mentioned herein below.

Particulars	Developers share (sq.Mts)
Mall area	20,364.36
Multiplex area	1,894.49
Basement area for car parking	8,127.62
Total	30,386.47

Super Built up Areas Allotted to the share of the Developer/ Land Owner in terms of the Area Sharing Agreement dated 14-11-2014

Particulars	Mall area (Sq. Mts)	Owners share	Developers share	Mall area total
Floors				
Ground floor	-	5,010.37	5,010.37	
First floor	-	4,632.64	4,632.64	
Second floor	-	3,357.69	3,357.69	
Third floor	-	3,681.83	3,681.83	
Fourth floor	-	3,681.83	3,681.83	
Fifth floor	-	-	-	
Sixth floor	-	-	-	
Seventh floor	-	-	-	
Terrace floor	-	-	-	
Total in sq mtrs	-	20,346.36	20,346.36	

Particulars	Owners share	Developers share	Total (Sq.Mts)
Multiplex area	5,683.49	1894.49	7,577.98
Particulars	Owners share	Developers share	Total (Sq.Mts)
2nd basement floor	4,269.67	1,935.90	6205.57
1st basement floor	1,148.75	6,191.72	7,340.47
Total in sq mtrs	5,418.42	8,127.62	13,546.04

Particulars	Owners share	Developers share	Total
Number of car parking spaces including Mechanical Parking			
2nd basement floor	252	86	338
1st basement floor	-	292	292
Total car park	252	378	630

Further to this PUBLIC NOTICE for E-Auction Sale of the above said Assets / properties (in terms and conditions of the SARFAESI, Act 2002 and rules thereunder) LICHFL invites online mode to purchase the said properties on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS".

THE TERMS & CONDITIONS OF THE AUCTION SALE ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

1. E-Auction is being held on 'As is where is Basis', 'As is what is Basis', 'Whatever there is' And 'Without Any Recourse Basis', and will be conducted "Online".
2. The intending bidders are advised to visit <https://online.lichousing.com/eauction/> for the details of the properties in the website and for taking part in the bid and proceed further. For any further details contact Authorised person Phone No.: 9380020741/9972022461
3. The successful bidder/s shall deposit 25% of the amount of sale price, adjusting the EMD paid already, immediately/within next working day on acceptance of offer by the Authorized officer in respect of the sale, failing which the earnest money deposited shall be forfeited. The balance 75% of the sale price is payable within 15 days from the date of confirmation of the sale solely at the discretion of the Authorized Officer. In case of failure to deposit the balance amount within the prescribed period, the amount deposited shall be forfeited. The Authorized Officer shall not be required to give any further notice of forfeiture to the successful bidder.
4. Bidding increment fixed for Rs.25,00,000/- Increment per BID.
5. Bidders are bound by the principle of "caveat emptor" (Buyer Beware) and advised to conduct their own due diligence to find any encumbrances, statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, Income Tax, Excise Duty, Labour Dues, electricity and maintenance dues etc., of the firm or Secured Asset. The Successful bidders shall have to bear all outgoing i.e., municipal taxes, maintenance/society charges, electricity charges, water charges, stamp duty, registration charges, taxes, or any other duties ,if any and all other incidentals charges, cost including all outgoing relating to the respective properties other than the sale price.
6. The L.I.C Housing Finance Limited reserves the right to Cancel/ Accept/ Reject/ Alter/ Modify/ Postpone the Tender Sale / Auction without giving any reason whatsoever or prior Notice.

Authorized Officer & Manager,
Mr. Arokia Ezhil Nilavan, L.I.C Housing Finance Ltd, Back Office, Bangalore

ASSEMBLY POLLS REDUCED TO RACE OF CASH, FREEBIES

POWER, Mao Zedong famously said, flows from the barrel of a gun. In India's political landscape, power flows from the barrel of electoral sops. The new instrument of endorsement is cash transfers. The three-vowel acronym IOU now arrives with explicit guarantees. The political class has engineered a constituency of 'beneficiaries' to power electoral viability.

The discourse in the campaign across five states going to polls this winter illustrates the phenomenon. Four of the five states going to polls are among the less industrialised and more populous states. Parties pay the obligatory obeisance to creating employment, the trinity of *bijli-sadak-pani* (electricity-roads-water) and development. The polls, though, are reduced to a contest of competing promises, of freebies and cash transfers.

The old approach of wooing voters across segments has given way to targeted promises. The woman voter has emerged as a game changer. States are racing to up the ante with promises for the affection of women voters. In Madhya Pradesh the

promise of ₹1,500 to women by the Congress saw the Shivraj Chouhan regime hike cash transfer under the Ladli Behna scheme from ₹1,000 to ₹1,500 and promised to raise it further to ₹3,000 per month. In Rajasthan the Ashok Gehlot government has promised an annual allowance of ₹10,000 to women. In Telangana K Chandrasekhar Rao has promised ₹3,000 a month to women from eligible households.

There is also the top-up strategy. Under this, schemes already run by the Union government are topped up with funding by the states. Over 45

percent of India's working age populace—who are engaged in agriculture and are living on a sixth of the national income—are a core constituency. In 2018, Telangana and Odisha formulated a scheme to supplement the income of farmers under the Rythu Bandhu and KALIA schemes. The idea was adopted nationally as the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, creating an entitlement of ₹6,000 per year payable to farmers.

The political compulsion to ramp up compensation is manifest in data—more than half the households in over 15 states depend on agriculture. Unsurprisingly, there is a race in the run up to the polls in Telangana. The Congress party promised to hike Rythu Bandhu payment to ₹15,000 and pledged ₹12,000 for agricultural labourers. Not to be outdone, the KCR regime in Telangana has promised to hike the Rythu Bandhu payment to ₹11,000 and eventually to ₹16,000 a year. In Maharashtra the SS-BJP-NCP regime has instituted a top up scheme called the Namu Shetkari Mahasamman Yojana to enable additional payment of ₹6,000 to eligible farmers.

The expansion of cash transfers is visible in the registration of over 7,000 codes by states on the National Payments Corporation portal. Topping up central allocations and subsidies is a recurring theme. Earlier this year, the Union government cut the unit price of cooking gas by ₹200. Poll-bound states are topping up the subsidy on cooking gas cylinders. The Gehlot government in Rajasthan is offering cylinders at ₹500, the KCR government in Telangana at ₹400 and the Chouhan regime in Madhya Pradesh at ₹450.

The sops parade is kaleidoscopic and cacophonous—parties compete to outbid the other team and are free to add and amend promises. It is instructive to note that political parties rarely quantify the cost of new promises. The challenge of implementing poll promises is visible on state budgets—Karnataka, for instance, had to set aside ₹52,000 crore to pay for its guarantees issued before the elections. Political parties, though, are unfazed. The urge to spend and the surge in expenditure are perhaps emboldened by the consistent rise in goods and services tax (GST) collections.

The annual GST revenue collections have shot up from ₹7.18 lakh crore in 2017-18 to over ₹18.10 lakh crore in 2022-23. Collections for the first half 2023-24 are up 11 percent at ₹9.92 lakh crore, averaging around ₹1.6 lakh crore a month. Indeed, GST revenues of the states for the first half of this year were up at ₹4.22 lakh crore as against ₹3.68 lakh crore in 2022-23. A second treasure trove with the states is fuel taxes—they recovered over ₹3.2 lakh crore last year.

The fact is that there are no free lunches. The cost of freebies and cash benefits are typically met through additional taxation which voters must pay in GST or fuel prices, and through additional borrowings which push up inflation and interest rates. Allocations clearly trigger dilution or denial in delivery of essential services—the unfilled vacancies in health, education and police are a testimony to this. The non-development expenditure of state governments has shot up from ₹10.63 lakh crore in 2020-21 to over ₹14.18 lakh crore. This is bound to rise with raucous rhetoric.

At best, electoral sops provide the paracetamol effect. The need for cash transfers and freebies is essentially the price of unattended issues. There is a deafening silence on policy design by states—on the liberation of agriculture or unshackling the factors of productivity. The GDP of India is a sum-of-pieces equation. Yet, state governments get a free pass on economic issues. Typically, the discourse in every election season focuses on the consequence of policy failings. The need to address the cause is waylaid as parties propel the promise parade.

CROSSING CONTINENTS WITH A DREAM



OPINION

K M CHANDRASEKHAR
Former Cabinet Secretary and author of
As Good as My Word: A Memoir

OUR world is conflict-ridden. The Global Peace Index showed a 45 percent increase in incidents of violence across the world even before the Ukraine war started. Some 100,000 such deaths took place in 2021 alone.

There has been a 40 percent increase in the number of drones used as instruments of war. "Internationalised conflicts have increased nine-fold since 2004 to 27. Internationalised intra-state conflicts are now just as common as interstate conflicts, reflecting a trend where over 80 percent of intrastate conflicts from 1975 to 2017 saw external support," says the Institute of Economics and Peace. When the League of Nations was replaced by the United Nations, there was hope that it would bring about lasting peace.

These hopes have now been belied and it is clear as crystal that the global political leadership thrives on division and discord, supported by the burgeoning armaments industry. Perhaps the answer lies in an international effort led by the UN and other agencies to create peace through the people, using a model of participation and development similar to a civil society organisation which I recently visited, called kanthari (with a small k), headed by Sabriye Tenberken, a blind but spunky German lady, and a lively Dutchman, Paul Kronenberg, under the aegis of the Bharat Sevak Samaj.

The story of Sabriye did not, however,

begin with kanthari. Her eyesight slowly declined and she tried to conceal this by memorising the ophthalmologist's eye chart. Until she was blind by the age of twelve, she was an energetic, outgoing girl with many friends. When her friends began to drop off one by one, she went into a state of depression for a couple of years. Encouraged by her understanding parents, she worked her way out of it. She may be blind, but she had many advantages too: complete focus on what she was doing, no teenage distractions, an almost infinite capacity to solve problems as and when they arose, great skills of communication and the ability to use the "myriad sensory signals" she learnt to recognise, as she mentions in her fascinating and highly readable book, *My Path Leads to Tibet*.

Tibet bewitched her even at school. She took Tibetology as one of her courses at the University of Bonn. Her professors discouraged her. She was advised to learn classical Tibetan, a subject on which many Braille books were available. She had by then decided not only to learn Tibetan but to go there and set up a school for the blind. That is why she had to create the Tibetan Braille system based on both Tibetan syllables and the six-dot Braille system. Her journey to Tibet was fraught with peril as she was alone and had no contacts, only a burning ambition to help blind children in that region. "I couldn't imagine anything more worthwhile than introducing and teaching my reading and writing method to the blind of Tibet," she writes.

Her adventure on horseback to the district of Drigung with the friends she

had made in Lhasa, Dolma and Biria is an account of sheer courage and determination. Travelling through villages, finding hutments to stay in, befriending villagers, surviving on tsampa, finding blind children in abysmal conditions, persuading their guardians to give them a chance to be educated, even living in a village said to be populated by demonic ghosts of slain soldiers, she finally found light at the end of the tunnel when an orphanage near Lhasa got interested in her concept and offered her space to set up her school.

Parents of blind children were persuaded to give their blind offspring a chance for a better life. The children enjoyed themselves in their new environment and learnt fast. She encountered obstacles galore, but she learnt to overcome them. In Tibet she found Paul, who was enamoured of her work and helped her with accounts and office management and, being an engineer, helped with the construction of a school and a farm. Major parts of the school are run now with the help of former students, most of whom have done well, running physiotherapy units, cheese- and bread-making units, and even carpets.

Paul and Sabriye had decided to move on and spread their learnings to a wider audience across the world. They chose Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala to re-settle and build a new kind of institution. They found a stretch of idyllic land near the Vellayani lake to set up their facilities in an environment-friendly manner, using the ideas of the famed British-born architect Laurie Baker, who had chosen this city as his

home. As I entered the premises of kanthari, the building on my left was where the participants lived, two to a room. Ajith Kumar, their Malayali associate, told me they would take care to put people from different continents and different religions and cultures together to create harmony and cultural fusion.

Kanthari, the word for birds' eye chilies in Malayalam, teaches people from all over the world how to set up organisations that can benefit marginalised people. Participants are selected after a rigorous six-step process conducted online, with psychologists participating. It is not academic excellence that they look for, but seriousness of purpose, creativity, the quality of empathy and firm faith in non-violence as a creed of life. Their classes are in an auditorium and also outdoors in scenic splendour; at times even on the lake. They eat simple food and learn to appreciate and value the environment.

Met two of their participants: Frank, who has now set up a unit in Ghana for the benefit of women making shea butter, and Johnny, who is a doctor who works to eliminate leprosy in Indonesia. Past participants have set up organic farming in Nigeria and Papua, kindergarten for disabled children in Meghalaya, and STEM education for the blind in Cambodia.

The founders and the kanthari team train the participants on project planning, financial management, policies, agreements, fundraising and overcoming personal barriers to change. Besides, they have fifty subject matter specialists from across the world. It is a tough course, 12 months long, and the participants often fail and thus acquire the determination to transcend failure. They have trained 258 change-makers so far from 53 countries, who have set up more than 160 organisations benefiting 25,000 to 30,000 people daily. They would like to work with universities and researchers to extend their reach. It is time to reach out.

(kmchandrasekhar@gmail.com)



HUNGER IS REAL, DO NOT MOCK IT



OPINION

NAVIKA HARSHE & SALMAN SOZ
Fellows, All India Professionals' Congress

THE Union minister for women and child development, Smriti Irani, recently dismissed India's abysmal ranking on the Global Hunger Index (GHI). In the GHI's latest rankings, India is at 111 out of 125 countries, below even poorer neighboring countries. Irani claimed that the index is created by "calling 3,000 out of 140 crore people and asking them if they are hungry". She joked that if someone called her after a long day of work and asked if she was hungry, she would also say, "Oh yes, I am." Her audience of well-heeled Indians laughed, perhaps an indication of how cut off India's wealthy are from the difficult lives of hundreds of millions of Indians. But is the minister right to portray the GHI as a useless indicator of India's food security status or is she being disingenuous, promoting complacency about the well-being of Indian children?

At the outset, it is important to debunk Irani's falsehood about the GHI. The GHI is a peer reviewed composite index jointly published by Concern Worldwide, an Irish aid agency, and Welthungerhilfe, a German non-profit, non-governmental aid agency. The indicator comprises four components which are weighted and

combined to create the GHI score. The components and their share in the index are undernourishment (one-third), child stunting (one-sixth), child wasting (one-sixth) and child mortality (one-third). Data for these indicators are taken from various multilateral agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and UNICEF, which typically obtain data from governments, including the Indian government.

Do indices like the GHI unfairly target India, as some conspiracy theorists may have you believe? The GFI and its creators are far more transparent than the PM CARES fund. Concern Worldwide has been working on issues of health, education, climate change and gender equality across the world. They are funded by the EU, USAID, Irish Aid and the UK government, all donors with stringent compliance requirements for the use of funds. Their website provides detailed accounts of all their income and spending including the pension paid to the CEO. The second institution, Welthungerhilfe, works on agriculture and food policy with an aim to end hunger in the world. It counts the German President as its patron. These are hardly the type of institutions that are out to get India.

Now that we know a bit more about the GHI, let us turn to its latest findings. More Indians are hungry, malnourished, as per the GHI of 2023. India's rank of 111 is based on a score of 28.7, placing it in the index's 'Serious' category. Only two other categories, 'Alarming' and 'Extremely Alarming', are worse than the category India finds itself in.

However, India has not always witnessed a declining position in the GHI. Since 2000, India has seen consistent improvement, with its score progressing

from 38.4 in 2000 to 35.5 in 2008 and 29.2 in 2015. However, from 2015 to 2023, India's progress has stagnated while many others have improved. As the data shows, India saw its most substantial improvement during the UPA2 era, when the country saw an improvement of over 6.3 points; since 2015, in the NDA era, the country has only improved by 0.5 points.

India also continues to perform dismally relative to its neighborhood. We are the only country other than war-torn Afghanistan that has fallen in its rankings from 2015 to 2023. Meanwhile, every other country in the neighborhood has seen


The Global Hunger Index is based on robust data. Comparing one's own eating habits with the actual hunger experienced by millions is an extremely insensitive statement for a minister to make

visible improvements in their respective rankings such as Pakistan (108 to 102), Nepal (78 to 69), Sri Lanka (68 to 60), and Bangladesh (96 to 81).

As expected, the government disparaged the index, calling it "an erroneous measure of hunger with serious methodological issues and shows a mala fide intent". The ministry of women and child development stated that three of the four indicators used to calculate the index are about children, which cannot be extrapolated to the larger population. GHI in its response observed, "Three out of four indicators used in the calculation of the

Global Hunger Index relate primarily to children because children are particularly vulnerable to nutritional deficiencies."

GHI uses data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) on stunting and wasting for calculating the GHI score. In March 2022, Irani shared NFHS data with the Rajya Sabha on child malnutrition; according to the data she presented, 31 percent of India's children are stunted, 17 percent are wasted and 32 percent are underweight. It is literally the data provided by Irani.

What about the telephone survey that Irani joked about? The telephone interview conducted by Gallup, a reputable polling firm, is a small component of the GHI score used to calculate only the undernourishment part which is a third of the indicator. GHI uses the UN FAO's food balance sheets which are based on the per-capita availability of food, calorie requirements of the population based on the distribution of age, sex of the population. To calculate the calorie intake of the population official consumption surveys of the government are used. In India, the last consumption survey was published in 2011 and hence the Gallup World Poll was used for more recent data.

Comparing her own eating habits with the actual hunger experienced by millions is an extremely insensitive statement for a minister to make. A government that does not conduct a basic census, hides inconvenient data, and has introduced some of the biggest opaque fundraising schemes such as electoral bonds and PM CARES is doing a disservice to the country. The government ignores India's poverty and hunger at its own peril. An India Shining 2 moment is upon us.

(Views are personal.)

QUOTE CORNER

There are four things European states can do immediately. First, suspend diplomatic relations with Israel. Second, implement strong economic sanctions as was done with Putin. Third, impose an arms embargo. Fourth, bring Netanyahu and all political leaders responsible for carrying out bombings against civilians before the International Criminal Court.

Ione Belarra, Spain's minister of social rights, after Israel denied visas to UN staff

Life's hard. You meet a girl, fall in love, get married. Her dad wants you to work 70 hours a week. You can't work that hard, you just wanna chill and run England.

VirDas, comedian, reacting to N R Narayana Murthy's assertion that Indians should work harder; UK prime minister Rishi Sunak is Narayana Murthy's son in law

He bowled to deceive but was the least deceptive of men. To face him must have been like having your pocket picked then being given your wallet back.

Gideon Haigh, Australian cricket writer, in homage to Bishan Singh Bedi

MAILBAG WRITE TO

Democratise parties

The unhealthy political situation covered by the column, *The delicate dance of duopolies*, is the result of finishing off of the internal democracy in all our political parties and institutionalising the high command culture. It started with Indira Gandhi, was copied by regional parties, and finally adopted by the BJP. I, in my 88th year, remember that state chief ministers used to visit Delhi only once a year to attend the CMs' conference presided over by the prime minister, not every fortnight to get orders from the high command.

Rajan Ugra, Bengaluru

Pharma code

Not only do all private hospitals run their own pharmacies, but many private doctors also have their own medicine disbursement arrangement inside their clinics. The tie-up between doctors and pharma companies is an open secret. A patient's faith

on a doctor should be maintained by doctors by prescribing quality medicines. It is rightly stated that the government should ensure an ethical marketing code for the industry.

R Sridharan, Chennai

Name change

India introduced Bharat at G20 in a dramatic way. Subsequently, the foreign minister addressed the UNGA using the name Bharat. Nobody cares and the broader public remains largely indifferent to this change. It seems that the decision to rename was made without fully understanding the practical implications. It could cause significant inconveniences. Just consider the potential scenario where citizens are compelled to alter their country's name on various official records. This could lead to long queues, administrative chaos and numerous bureaucratic hurdles.

Girish R Edathitta, Pathanamthitta

Paper tiger

The UN has adopted a non-binding resolution calling

for 'durable truce' despite US objections, non-binding being the operative part. It is evident from the UN's inability to stop Israel's bombardment of Gaza that the world body is only a paper tiger. Prior to this, the US vetoed a resolution calling for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, thereby giving the green light for the massacre of innocent Palestinian civilians and rendering its claim of moral leadership hollow.

G David Milton, Maruthancode

BSNL status

PM Modi equating the Congress party with outdated mobile phones is rather interesting. It is also interesting that Modi raised the hope that India would be playing a major role in the development of 6G. However, what one would like to ask is: what is the status of the government's own undertaking BSNL? It is still living in the era of 3G and one does not know when it will graduate to 4G and 5G. Is not there something fishy that the government is preferring private players and patting its own back while ignoring an enterprise owned by it?

K R Jayaprakash Rao, Mysuru

Right balance

If Congress MP Shashi Tharoor has called Hamas a terrorist organisation, there is nothing wrong with it. Spearheading dreadful attacks on innocent people including women and children are indeed acts of terrorism. Tharoor has also expressed solidarity for the people of Palestine. The IUML should stop making a mountain out of a molehill and realise that Hamas is not Palestine.

Sudhakar Cherukunnu, Kannur

Water woes

Chennai is the worst in encroaching on waterfronts and constructing buildings hindering both drinking water lines and drainage. It results in water-logging every monsoon and drinking water shortage every summer. Chennai is followed by Bengaluru and Hyderabad on this list. The experienced engineers who retired from the drainage and water departments should be engaged to restore the drainage links and advisory groups comprising such people can be formed.

S Ravi Shankar, Hyderabad



Amit Shah @AmitShah
Modi ji has worked to eliminate the forces spreading terrorism in the country by banning anti-national organisations like PFI.



Jai Ram Ramesh @JaiRam_Ramesh
Did the PM cancel Mizoram visit because questions would be raised that he had not found time to visit the deeply troubled neighbouring state for almost 180 days?



Priyanka Chaturvedi @priyankac19
It's a shame that Indian MPs are no longer being sent to the UN. The practice presented a unique opportunity for capacity-building and also to get an insider's view of diplomacy.

Palestine wants peace but with right to self-determination, Ambassador Adnan Abu Al-Haija tells The New Indian Express

'WORLD LEADERS SHOULD INTERVENE TO STOP THIS GENOCIDE'



SHEKHAR YADAV

WHILE a UN resolution overwhelmingly calls for a humanitarian truce, Israel has only intensified attacks in Gaza and unleashed aerial bombardments as well as begun a ground offensive. The Arab nations appear to be coming together in the face of the serious humanitarian catastrophe. At the 8th edition of **Delhi Dialogues**, Palestine Ambassador to India **Adnan Abu Al-Haija** talks about how world powers have sided with Tel Aviv amid increasing Israeli belligerence and wonders if there would ever be a ceasefire. **Excerpts:**

Santwana Bhattacharya: It is not an Israel-Hamas war anymore. Nor is its impact restricted to the Gulf region alone. The entire world is caught up in it. Israel has the support of democratic countries like the US and several European nations. The West defends Israelis as if they have blue blood and Palestinians have no dignity. There are close to 2.2 million people living in a 65 sq km area in Gaza. Most of them have large families with children. They don't have water, electricity, fuel and oxygen.

We are also facing challenges from the new government in Israel. Nearly 260 Palestinians were killed in the West Bank before October 7. The West Bank is divided into three areas — 'A' (cities), 'B' (towns) and 'C' (areas in between). Israel has confiscated land in the West Bank and is controlling 61% of it. Families living there aren't even allowed to build rooms. We will not forget what is going on in Al-Aqsa mosque. It is very sensitive for us. Israel is pushing for religious war. Hamas has reacted to this.

Santwana Bhattacharya: The Hamas attack has been reported as brutal across the globe. This has been a sticking point in moving international opinion. We wanted to honour the Oslo Accord of 1993. We agreed to build our land in East Jerusalem, which is 22% of the total area. Former Israel Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin wanted peace with Palestine. But the Oslo Accord or the two-state solution wasn't accepted after the assassination of Rabin. Nearly

61% of our homeland is in the West Bank. Palestine doesn't have any problem. It is the US and others who don't want a peaceful solution. The intention is to kill as many Palestinians as possible or take away their land.

Yeshi Seli: Why did the Hamas attack on October 7? Did it come as a surprise? The attack was a surprise to everyone. However, Israel had prior information about the attack. Israel can track all mobile phone calls in Gaza, then how did they not see this coming?

The Hamas attack is a reaction to what Palestinians go through daily. The West does not want us to live in peace. It has encouraged right-wing Benjamin Netanyahu to carry out a full-scale offensive against Palestinians. I wonder when there will be a ceasefire. Will it happen after all Palestinians are dead?

Yeshi Seli: What's the update on the hostages? Do you think if they are

released, it may help restore peace?

Hamas has announced that it wants to release 50 civilians, but Israel isn't too keen. Two Israeli women, who had been released recently, were not even received by the authorities. They had to go to Egypt after being released.

We have not heard any Israeli officer condemn the attacks on civilians in Gaza and the West Bank. What is shocking is that victims of the Holocaust are making this a holocaust for Palestine.

Santwana Bhattacharya: There is a humanitarian crisis, besides the massive toll, in Gaza. India, too, has sent aid. How much has been received?

The supply in Gaza on any normal day is around 100 trucks. However, only 78 trucks were allowed to enter Gaza till October 26. Medicines are not allowed to be sent to north Gaza. Our hospitals will soon collapse due to the shortage of fuel and other infrastructure. Only half of the 3,500 injured could be

treated at Gaza hospitals till October 26.

Yeshi Seli: Tell us about India's role. Will it help ease the crisis?

West Asia is very important for India. India has good relations with both Palestine and Israel. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is respected by both. I have personally reached out to PM Modi seeking his help in the ceasefire. Palestinians are not responsible for what is happening in Gaza. All world leaders should intervene and stop this genocide.

Yeshi Seli: Who are the biggest supporters of Palestine? Who are backing you?

Jordan and Egypt are our supporters. Israel and Egypt have signed a peace treaty. Turkey, too, is supporting us. Some countries in Europe, including Spain, are supporting us. But the challenge is from the bigger democracies who support Israel including the US, UK, France, Germany and Italy.

Yeshi Seli: Western nations too have extended aid to Palestine...

The question is when and where will we receive the aid? After we die? If they want to support a massacre, we do not want the aid. We are looking for self-determination. We can live in peace with Israel as our neighbour but not as slaves in our homeland.

Santwana Bhattacharya: Is there any attempt from Palestine to persuade Hamas to release hostages so that civilians can be saved?

Discussions have taken place along with Qatar and Egypt. However, we should not forget that there are over 6,000 Pales-

tinians detained in Israeli prisons. They are referred to as being under administrative detention. Palestinians can be picked up and put behind bars. Children as young as 12 years old are picked up. We fear many of the detainees have been killed, or given life sentences.

Yeshi Seli: Are you suggesting a swap of hostages and detainees?

Most detainees are civilians, including women and children. Israelis have dual citizenship and most are in the Army, so can't be considered civilians. I would support releasing all detainees and releasing all hostages.

Yeshi Seli: Are the hostages safe?

We don't know. There were reports that 50 had been killed, but I am not sure. I would want Hamas to do everything to keep them safe. But we don't know where they are.

Santwana Bhattacharya: Do you think this can escalate into a bigger war?

We are looking for peace. We hope that a ceasefire is implemented as soon as possible. Stop killing, stop the war and start a new peace process to find a peaceful situation for Palestine.

Yeshi Seli: Will Palestine and Israel be able to arrive at a peace solution or are you seeking intervention from other countries?

We are fine in dealing with Israel. But Israel hasn't met the Palestinian Prime Minister for the last nine years. We must reaffirm that we want peace but with our right to self-determination. We have a right to establish our state. We can't be slaves.

Santwana Bhattacharya: Is the two-nation resolution the best way to resolve the crisis?

Many countries support the two-nation theory, but we can live with Israel as one state, too. There should be permission to have free and fair elections. East Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine. In the end, we are one people. The land has been occupied. We can also live and co-exist as peaceful neighbours.

VK PANDIAN

THE '4 AM OFFICER' IS ODISHA'S MAN OF THE MOMENT

SN AGRAGAMI

ON Saturday (October 28), the Instagram handle of VK Pandian had a new post update. With the Shri Jagannath Temple at Puri glowing in the darkness of pre-dawn, the lanky ex-bureaucrat and newly-appointed chairman of the 5T Initiatives and Nabin Odisha programme of Naveen Patnaik government launched himself into his new innings.

And then it was business as usual for the 'man of the moment' in Odisha. The 4am officer — a moniker he has earned for his early dawn visits to project sites — got down to taking stock of the progress of Odisha government's flagship Jagannath Temple Heritage Corridor project before morning light could break. The state is waiting for his next move after resigning from the Indian Administrative Service — the new position in the cabinet rank is deemed to be just a stop-gap arrangement. The career of the Tamil Nadu-born 2000-batch IAS officer, a middle distance runner by training, closely resembles his athletics background. Like a 3,000-metre run, he has had a steady and gradual progression through the crowd.

Being handpicked by Naveen Patnaik to be his private secretary in 2011, Pandian won the complete trust of the CM by his loyalty and skills both in administration and political affairs. Slow and steady in approach, the soft-spoken officer worked his way through to acquire the all-powerful position after Naveen. So much so that in the recent years, he was assumed as the de facto CM — even BJD leaders by slip of tongue addressing him so.

Pandian, from his early career, displayed uncanny understanding of people's pulse. People remember his stint as an additional district magistrate of Rourkela where he drove a JCB to demolish unauthorised encroachments. In his subsequent posting as Ganjam collector, he brought in innovations that caught the CM's eye.

In May 2012, a year after his posting in the CM's office, Naveen faced the worst crisis of his career when his political advisor Pyrimohan Mohapatra engineered a coup. The rebellion was quelled with Pandian quietly playing his part in the damage control exercise. Naveen was always known to have reposed his faith more in bureaucrats than his party colleagues and the failed coup meant he had to tread more cautiously.



SOURAV ROY

Sources close to Pandian would confide that he played a key role in throwing a protective ring around his boss and ensuring that no other power centre was created in the party ever after.

The power corridor began to concentrate around him. And his office on the third floor in the CM's Secretariat turned a household name. Pandian became the only gateway to Patnaik.

In the last six years, Pandian marshalled the administration to drive some of the most ambitious initiatives that sought to transform Odisha. The state saw a new era of governance with Pandian professedly the mastermind of all the initiatives. His stamp has been hard to miss in Odisha's governance map.

Hosting the Asian Athletics Championships in just 90 days to two successive hockey men's world cups and a host of international football and other sports tournaments catapulted Odisha into a global sports hub. From the Jagannath Heritage Corridor to developing all religious and tourist places, development of SCB Medical College, the state's premier health facility, all bear his mark.

However, till 2019, Pandian preferred to work behind the curtains. The BJD sweep in 2019 changed the course. His subsequent appointment as the 5T (Transparency, Technology, Teamwork, Time and Transformation) secretary, a wing specifically created for Pandian, making sure that each and every department were reportable to him. Since 2019, Patnaik allowed Pandian to operate with a free hand. While talks about his political positioning as Naveen's heir gained strength, he seemed to play along. His recent district visits to listen to people's grievances touched the raw nerve of the Opposition. The BJP and Congress challenged him to resign from service and join politics.

Pandian has obliged. But as the state heads to elections in just a few months, the track will not be easy. Questions will be asked. The last lap will be like a 400-metre hurdle for Pandian.



Signature campaign

The family members of the eight veterans are now seeking the support of the government and people to help get the officers repatriated. Vikas Nagpal, a member of one of the families has initiated a signature campaign. "This petition aims to seek justice for these individuals who have served their country honourably. We urge people support our cause for justice for these individuals," said Nagpal.

Kin of 8 Naval veterans seek govt help

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

QATAR'S death sentence verdict on the eight imprisoned Indian naval veterans has numbed their families, who are now looking to the Central government to intervene.

"We couldn't come to terms with what we heard. My brother Commander Purnendu Tiwari, who happens to be a decorated naval veteran, has done no wrong. He is innocent. We plead to our Prime Minister to intervene and bring back our officers," Commander Tiwari's sister Dr Meetu Bhargava told this newspaper. She added that it has been a painful 14 months

since they were arrested by Qatari authorities over unsubstantiated charges. Commander Tiwari, who is 63 years old, is failing in health and has been facing mental health issues.

"It was a rumour that led to these eight naval veterans being rounded up by Qatar's interior ministry. The only recorded conversation is of these officers speaking with a military attaché about general things. This was misconstrued and misinterpreted by the Qatari authorities and these men are languishing in jail," said a source. The family members of these

eight veterans are now seeking the support of the government and people to help get the officers repatriated. Vikas Nagpal, a member of one of the families has initiated a signature campaign.

"The lack of transparency and the due process in this case is deeply concerning as it undermines faith in legal systems globally. This petition aims to bring attention to this grave issue and seeks justice for these individuals who have served their country honourably. We urge people to sign this petition and support our cause for justice, fair-

ness and respect for human rights," said Nagpal.

It may be recalled that the Qatari court announced death penalty to these eight individuals on October 26. The eight naval veterans have continuously maintained that they are innocent and not involved with anything that is contrary to the interest of Qatar or their laws.

The eight naval veterans are Captain Navtej Singh Gill, Captain Birendra Kumar Verma, Captain Saurabh Vasisht, Commander Amit Nagpal, Commander Purnendu Tiwari, Commander Sugunakar Pakala, Commander Sanjeev Gupta and Sailor Ragesh.

POST QATAR VERDICT

'Strokes, heart attacks spike in youngsters post-Covid'

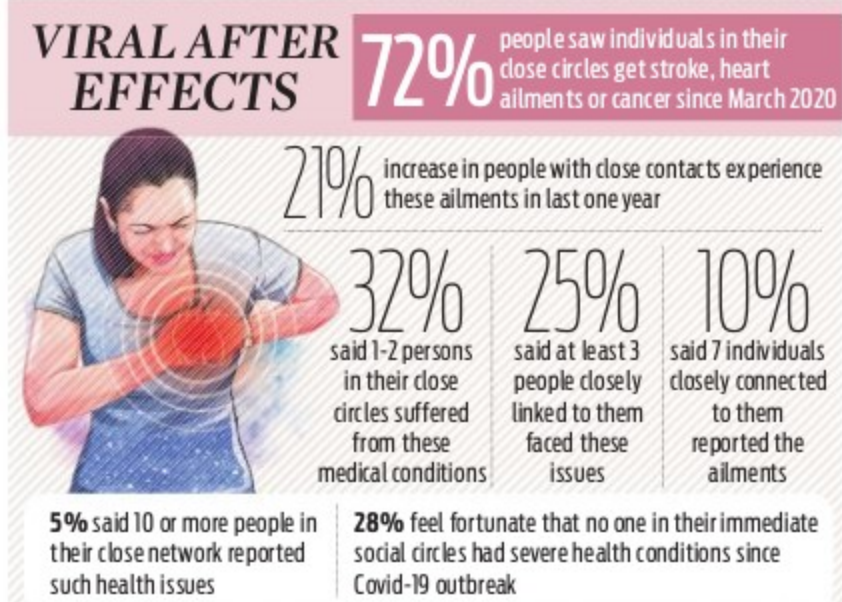
KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

MORE young people are experiencing strokes, heart ailments and cancer acceleration in India since the Covid-19 outbreak, a survey has shown.

According to the survey conducted by LocalCircles, there has been 21 per cent increase in the number of people with one or more of their close contacts who experienced stroke, heart attack (when one of the coronary arteries get blocked), cardiac arrest (when the heart stops pumping blood altogether) or cancer acceleration between October 2022 and 2023.

The survey, which studied over 11,000 people in 322 districts across India, said that 72 per cent reported one or more individuals in their close social circles — either extended family, friends, neighbours and colleagues — who experienced such medical conditions in the last three-and-a-half years.

The data showed that 32 per cent of the surveyed indicated that 1-2 persons in their close network have suffered from



these medical conditions in the last three-and-a-half years; for 25 per cent, this was at least three; for 10 per cent, seven, and for 5 per cent, ten or more. Only 28 per cent of the surveyed said no one in their immediate social network had severe health conditions since the Covid-19 outbreak.

"In our October 2022 study, 51

per cent of people had indicated having one or more close contacts with the onset of a severe medical condition since Covid. But in the last 12 months, this has risen to 72 per cent of respondents having one or more close contacts with the onset of severe medical conditions," said Sachin Taparia, founder of LocalCircles.

"With high number of stroke cases reported in young people in last 12 months, the need of the hour is for the Union health ministry to investigate this thoroughly and find the root cause, as most people are unwilling to accept reports that conclude sedentary lifestyle as the general cause for stroke-related deaths in young," Taparia told this newspaper.

Prof K Srinath Reddy, honorary distinguished professor at Public Health Foundation of India, said Covid-19 infection is associated with a generalised inflammatory response. "This is associated with increased risk of blood clotting, resulting in heart attacks and brain strokes. It can also lead to diabetes and cancers. Virus vector vaccines too have been shown to have a risk of blood clotting in a minority of recipients," he said.

Dr Rajeev Jayadevan, co-chairman of National Indian Medical Association Covid Task Force, said studies abroad have shown an increased risk of cardiovascular events among people who have had Covid-19.

To control onion prices, govt fixes MEP at ₹67/kg, plans to buy 2LMT for buffer

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

TO control the prices of onion in the election year, the union government has imposed a minimum export price (MEP) and announced additional procurement of 2 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) to increase its availability in the domestic market.

Onion is being sold in Delhi-NCR at ₹60/70 per kg, almost double the price last month. The government notified an MEP of 800 US dollars per metric tonne (MT) (over ₹67 per kg) on onion export to maintain domestic availability. The procurement of two LMTs of the onion by the centre will be in addition to 5 LMT already procured. Procurement and disposal of onion from buffer stocks help moderate the prices and ensure remunerative prices to the farmers.

Several states have witnessed a sudden rise in onion prices—40 to 70 per cent—in the past cou-



ple of weeks. The average price of onion was around ₹30 at the start of October.

According to the Department of Consumer Affairs, the prices are relatively higher in the southern and northeastern states as compared to central and northern states. Below monsoon rain has led to a decline in onion cultivation in

southern states.

The government has claimed that it has been continuously disposing of the onion from the buffer since the second week of August and supplying it to retail consumers at ₹25 per kg through mobile vans operated.

To date, over 1.70 LMT of onion has been taken from the buffer stock.

	Max	Min
Ahmedabad	42	27
Bhopal	43	28
Jaipur	41	30
Amritsar	40	23
Chennai	39	30
Kolkata	36	26
Srinagar	18	08

	Max	Min
Mumbai	35	29
Panaji	32	28
Patna	41	27
Lucknow	42	27
Port Blair	34	28
Imphal	23	18
Chandigarh	42	23

■ In Chhattisgarh, Congress offers Rs 4,000/sac for tendu leaves ■ In MP, Home Minister says Centre has fulfilled promise on Ayodhya temple

In Maoist-hit Bastar, Rahul woos voters with free edu

EIAZ KAISER @ Raipur

BJP leaders talk a lot about the OBCs, but are scared of caste-based census. The OBCs are deprived of what they deserve. They form over 50% of the population and are now being misled

Rahul Gandhi, Congress leader

Tribal votes crucial

There are 29 reserved ST seats in the 90-member Chhattisgarh assembly. Rahul listed out pro-ST policies brought by the Congress government in the state, alleging that BJP and its affiliates have no empathy for the tribal communities.

RAHUL Gandhi on Saturday renewed his pledge to offer free education to students from KG to post-graduation in all government-owned educational institutions in Chhattisgarh.

He promised that if Congress retains power in the state, tendu patta collectors, who are mostly from tribal communities, will get Rs 4,000 per standard sac besides Rs 10 hike in every minor forest produce (MFP). The tendu leaves are cited as green gold and are used to wrap tobacco beedis. The annual production of tendu leaves is around 1.70 million standard sac in the state.

The former Congress chief addressed two separate public rallies at tribal-dominated Bhanupratapur and Kondagaon in Bastar zone, where the first phase of polling is due on November 7. Lashing out at the BJP-led Centre for "avoiding" caste survey, he said such a census will be done in Chhattisgarh and also in Delhi (Centre) if Congress came to power.

"All BJP leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, talk a lot about the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) but remain scared of caste-based census because the OBCs are deprived of what they deserve. The OBCs constitute over 50% of the population and are now being misled," said Rahul. On Scheduled Tribes (ST), the Congress leader compared the terminology while differentiating the word 'vanva-



si' that BJP cites for tribals from 'adivasi' as referred by Congress for the tribes. There are 29 reserved ST seats in the 90-member state assembly.

"By calling them vanvasi, the BJP is not just insulting tribal communities but the expression is also an attack on their culture, history and rights. Adivasi signifies the original inhabitants of this country who have rights over Jal, Jungle, Zameen. For BJP the tribals are the ones who stay in forest and they don't speak about their rights," he stated.

wooing the tribals, Rahul said Congress brought various welfare schemes for them. These included Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, anti-poverty employment generation scheme MGNREGA, Forest Rights Act and other tribal bills. He said that no one however high can take away the land of tribals without mandatory permission of the gram sabha.

Stronghold of Nath's

The venue where Shah addressed the party rally has been a stronghold of Kamal Nath, the MP Congress chief. In 2018 polls, all seven assembly seats of Nath's turf was won by Cong.

DECIDE

Responds to temple barbs

Shah recalled how Congress leaders ridiculed BJP on Ram temple dates. Now, the PM has announced the date of the temple in Ayodhya, which is January 22.

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

MAKING a veiled attack on Congress leader siblings Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday that those whose "origins are in Italy" won't understand India's growth story ushered in by the Modi-led government.

"The Congress doesn't see any positives, the brother and sister duo, while roaming in poll-bound states, are often questioning as to what positive has happened. Only those who've origins in India will be able to understand the positive developments that have happened during the Modi government's nine years. Those whose origins are in Italy won't understand the country's growth story during the Modi government," Shah said while addressing an election meeting in Junnardeo assembly segment of state Congress's chief Kamal Nath's pocket-borough Chhindwara district.

In the 2018 assembly polls, all seven assembly seats of Chhindwara district were won by Congress. The Chhindwara Lok Sabha seat has been won by Kamal Nath nine times and by his wife Alka Nath once. It is currently represented by Nath's son Nakul Nath.

He also spoke about the January 22, 2024 Ram temple consecration in Ayodhya. Shah recounted the days when he was the BJP national president. "I remember how the Congress leaders



ridiculed us by saying that the BJP will only talk about the temple (in Ayodhya), but won't tell about its construction. Rahul Baba (Rahul Gandhi), now PM Modi hasn't just got the temple constructed, but the date of consecration of the temple too has been fixed. You (Rahul Gandhi) should go there and seek the blessings of Lord Ram."

Accusing the Congress of creating hurdles and delaying the construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya since independence, Shah said the people of MP will celebrate three Diwalis this year: "The first Diwali will be on the Festival of Light Deepawali, the second will be on the day MP gets another BJP government and the third will be celebrated on the consecration of Lord Ram Lalla idol at the grand temple," he said.

Shah is on a three-day tour of the poll-bound MP, starting from Saturday. He will travel to Vindhya, Malwa-Nimar, Mahakoshal and Gwalior-Chambal regions over the next two days.

MASS SUICIDE?

Seven members of Surat family found dead

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

SEVEN members of a family, including three children, were found dead in their house at Palanpur Jakatnaka in Surat city on Saturday morning, police said.

The incident came to light when a call to Manish Solanki, the male member and father of three children, by his employee, went unanswered.

According to police, six people died from poison, while one hanged himself. The deceased have been identified as Reshamaben, Solanki's wife, Kavaya, Trisha, and Krishal, his children, Kanubhai and Shobhaben, his parents.

"According to initial investigations, Solanki hanged himself after poisoning his family members," a senior police officer said.

Solanki, who owns a furniture company having a staff of over 35 people, has left an unnamed suicide note, mentioning the financial crisis he was going through, the officer said.

The bodies have been sent for post-mortem while further investigations are underway

Kuki-Zos in Mizoram find solace in state govt's humanitarian gestures

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Aizawl

THE ethnic frenzy in Manipur separated Martha Mangkhoni from her children but she finds solace in Mizoram government's humanitarian gesture of sheltering her and over 12,000 other displaced Kuki-Zo tribals.

The septuagenarian and her 10 children – five sons and five daughters – lived close-by in the same Sugnu locality on the border of Kakching and Chandel districts in Manipur. In good times earlier, she would often be among her children. They are now lodged in facilities, provided by Mizoram government and some NGOs, in different parts of the state.

"I never imagined I would have to face such difficulties. I want to return to Sugnu, my birthplace, but this may never be possible. My house has been burned down. I have lost all hopes in life," Mangkhoni told this newspaper with worries writ large on her face.

She is living with her youngest son at a government building at Falkland on the outskirts of Aizawl. Over 300 displaced Kukis, including women and

children, from 56 families are lodged in a cluster of government buildings which are surrounded by picturesque hills.

Falkland comes under Aizawl East-I Assembly constituency, currently held by Chief Minister Zoramthanga of Mizo National Front (MNF).

Elizabeth Vungkhanching, another displaced Kuki woman, said she was looking at a bleak future. "Going to Sugnu will not be possible. We are at the mercy of the central government. Only it can restore peace in Manipur," the sexagenarian said.

John Zo, a "leader" of the displaced people, said they would remain grateful to Mizoram government and some missionaries from Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, churches in Mizoram for providing relief materials, medicines and shelter.

Mizo, Kuki, Zomi, Hmar, Chin (Myanmar) and Kuki-Chin (Bangladesh) tribals are ethnic cousins, belonging to Zo community, and they share the same ancestry, culture and tradition.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

ADDRESSING an election rally in drought-prone Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh, Congress national general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday questioned why even after 18 years of BJP rule people of this region are poor; lack access to water and forced to migrate.

"It's time that you, particularly the women, ask those who've been in power for 18 years, why you are still poor; why is there scarcity of water and why people are forced to migrate from here," Priyanka, who was in Damoh district, said.

Drawing comparison with the neighbouring state, Priyanka said, "In Chhattisgarh our CM told me that he is confident of winning the polls, because he has put public money in people's pockets, created and added rural jobs. People are fast returning to agriculture and the most backward regions are getting big industries."

"But what is happening in

with his aide Arpita Mukherjee and ED recovered cash and jewellery worth nearly ₹50 crore from the young actor's properties which tarnished the image of the party badly. This seems to be the reason behind the chief minister's silence," said the leader.

Though Mamata, on Thursday, had threatened to lodge an FIR against the BJP and the ED if anything happens to Mallick, but the party is yet to lodge any complaint with police.

The ED is yet to interrogate Mallick since his arrest as the court, which first ordered the investigating agency to take Mallick to Army's command hospital as he is suffering from blood sugar, later allowed the plea of the family members of the minister for taking him to a private healthcare unit.

"We are yet to interrogate Mallick since the court remanded him to our custody till November 6 as he is admitted to the private hospital. we are discussing his health issues with the doctors," said an official. Action against Mallick was followed by the recent arrest of Bakibur Rahaman, a prime accused in the ration scam.

Priyanka flags 'abject' poverty, lack of jobs in Bundelkhand



Priyanka Gandhi in rally ahead of state Assembly polls in Damoh on Saturday | PTI

First, the government closed public sector undertakings (PSUs) and sold them to its friends. Later, it implemented demonetisation and rolled out GST which as followed by COVID-19 pandemic... All these things have broken the backbone of the people of the country — Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Congress national general secretary

MP. Once the elections are there, the politicians start talking about religion and caste for votes. You [people] are not realising the damage it's doing to your lives. The women are the most alert who are willing to do anything for their children's future. I appeal to them [women] to vote for the future of children," she asserted.

Targeting the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government over

making women-centric announcements, Priyanka questioned, "More than schemes, the women want safety, jobs, education and health facilities, particularly when daily 17 rapes are reported in MP."

Accusing the government in the state of not creating jobs, she said, "In 2018 polls, BJP promised 10 lakh jobs, but actually, in three years, just 21 jobs have been given."

Modi's jibe

Earlier the PM, without taking Pawar's name, asked what has the former union agriculture minister has done for the state. Modi said while BJP is empowering farmers, through various schemes, a senior leader from Maharashtra (aimed at Pawar) did politics over farmer issue. Pawar was agriculture minister from 2004 to 2014.

Pawar was agriculture minister when the Congress-led UPA government was in office at the Centre (2004-14).

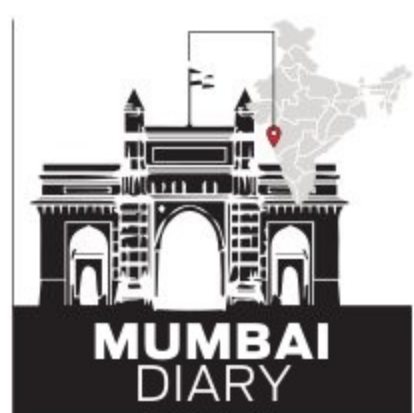
He said the fear of losing power might have pushed the PM to make such comments.

"I want to make my stand clear on the statements made by PM Modi in Shirdi about my tenure as Agriculture Minister. I was Agriculture Minister for 10 years from 2004 to 2014. I had a crisis on the very first day of my tenure as Agri minister. I had to sign a document for import of food grains for the Pub-

lic distribution system. If that was not done on time, our PDS distribution would have been stopped. Subsequently, I decided to increase the minimum support price (MSP) of various crops, and the MSPs of some crops were increased manifold," Pawar said.

Shiv Sena (UBT) mouthpiece also attacked Modi over his jibe at Sharad Pawar's contributions in development of Maharashtra and agriculture sector. According to records, BJP-run government under PM Modi gave the second highest civilian award — Padma Vibhushan — to Pawar for his contributions in agriculture, and social sector and Modi was speaking in contrast to that award.

"If you see the nationwide picture, there are a lot of states where BJP is not in power or their government has come after sabotaging other parties. And wherever there is a BJP government, they are on weak foot. This weakness and fear of losing power may have forced him (PM) to make such statements," Pawar added.



MUMBAI DIARY

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI

Our correspondent in Maharashtra

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Govt grants ₹147 cr soft loan to ex-Cong chief

The BJP-run Maharashtra government issued a Government Resolution granting a ₹147 crore soft loan to the former Congress chief minister Ashok Chavan co-operative Bhausaheb Chavan co-operative sugar mill, which is located near the Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank. Chavan's sugar mill is the only mill in the Opposition that received such a substantial amount of relief from the BJP-led government. In political circles, the BJP government's financial assistance to Ashok Chavan's sugar mill is referred to as a short-term sweet offer for long-term politics.



Shinde seeks date with PM Modi

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and the Deputy Chief Minister have been making persistent efforts to secure an appointment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate the Navi Mumbai metro line, from Belapur to Kharghar, and to start local trains from Kharpada to Ulwe over the last six months. Both the metro and the extended local train projects have been completed for more than six months. The Maharashtra Chief Minister's office has attempted to get in touch with the PM's office, but the PMO has not yet provided dates yet.

Uddhav gets more viewership than Shinde

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Uddhav Thackeray addressed mega Dussehra rallies at different venues, namely Azad Maidan at CST and Shivaji Park at Dadar. Interestingly, even though Thackeray is not the chief minister, he still garners more viewership, or TRP, than the incumbent chief minister. A private analysis of both speeches, which received high viewership among Marathi viewers, yielded surprising numbers. 49,000 viewers watched Uddhav Thackeray's live speech, while 6,500 viewers watched the CM's speech. This indicates that the Thackeray surname holds significance.

Did Mamata get a whiff of her minister's arrest?

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

THE sudden emergence of chief minister Mamata Banerjee from her three-week illness break and attack on the BJP on the issue of using central forces appeared to be her anticipation about the arrest of one of her trusted lieutenants Jyoti-priya Mallick by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in an alleged ration scam.

Mamata, who preferred to be silent after the arrests of Trinamool Congress minister Partha Chatterjee last and recent interrogation of another minister Firhad Hakim by the ED, became critical on the day of ED's 20-hour raid at Mallick's residence on Thursday. The TMC strongman, who served as food and supplies minister from 2011 to 2021 before taking charge of forest department, is believed to be the architect behind the ruling party's organisation base in North 24 Parganas, where five Lok Sabha constituencies and 33 Assembly seats are located.

"Now it seems the chief minister held an unscheduled press conference on Thursday attacking the BJP on the issue of mis-



CM Mamata Banerjee in a press conference at her residence on Thursday | PTI

Mallick's arrest a jolt to party

CM Mamata Banerjee knew Mallick's arrest would be a jolt to the party in North 24-Parganas ahead of Lok Sabha polls. He was the second minister of her cabinet arrested after ex-education minister Partha Chatterjee was held in connection with irregularities in school recruitment.

using central agencies as she rightly anticipated Mallick's arrest. She knew Mallick's arrest would be a jolt to the party in North 24-Parganas ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections," said a senior TMC minister.

The leader also pointed out that Mamata's sudden appearance two days ago was a message to her trusted men in the party that she would be beside

them in case of BJP's effort to engage central agencies against them.

"Mallick was the second minister of her cabinet arrested by the central agency as former education minister Partha Chatterjee was apprehended by the ED in connection with irregularities in school recruitment. Chatterjee, last year, was arrested along

DIPR/SMG/No.138-10/zenkar/2023-24

Retail loans continue to witness rise despite RBI's concerns

Q2 results of top banks show high double-digit growth in personal, credit card loans

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

THE banking regulator – Reserve Bank of India – has expressed its concern over the growing personal loans, yet the latest bank results show that there's no stopping retail credit surge.

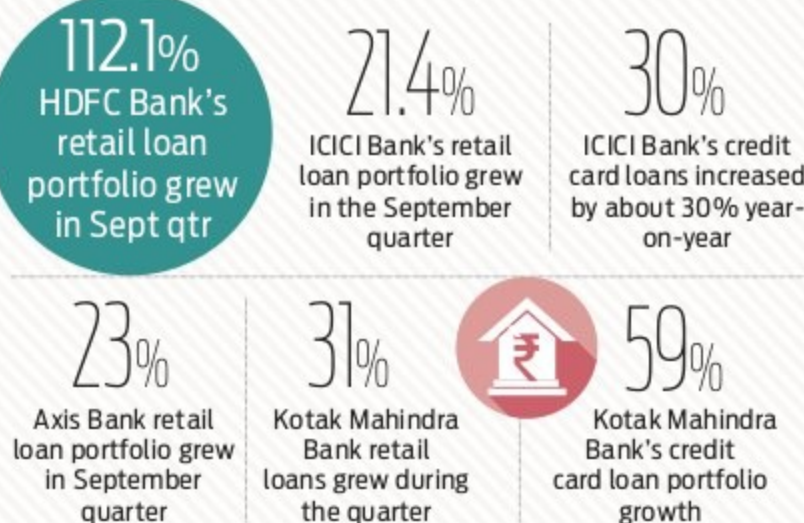
HDFC Bank saw its domestic retail loan portfolio grow by 112.1% in the September quarter compared to 29.5% growth in commercial and rural banking loans and 8% growth in corporate and other wholesale loans. The three-digit year-on-year growth in retail loan could be a result of HDFC Bank's merger with its home loan subsidiary HDFC, but other banks also continue to see high growth in retail loans.

ICICI Bank saw its retail loan portfolio grow by 21.4% year-on-year in the second quarter. Its total loan portfolio during the quarter grew by 19%. The bank's unsecured portfolio comprises of personal loans and credit card portfolio and it's about 13.3% of total portfolio. The consumer finance portfolio increased by about 40% during the second quarter while credit card loans increased by about 30% year-on-year.

Axis Bank saw its retail loan portfolio grow by 23%. Kotak Mahindra Bank posted a healthy 31% growth in retail loans including credit cards. Public Sector bank PNB saw its core retail loan 16.5% during the quarter. While its home loan portfolio grew by 13.7%, vehicle loan portfolio grew at a strong 28.3% and unsecured personal loans at 39%.

The RBI has cautioned banks and NBFCs against high growth in retail lending especially in unsecured personal loans. Noting that certain components of personal loans are recording very high growth, the RBI governor Shakti Kanta Das in its monetary policy statement earlier this month said that RBI is closely watching these loans for any signs of incipient stress. "Banks and NBFCs would be well advised to strengthen their internal surveillance mechanisms, address the build-up of risks, if any, and institute suitable safeguards in their own interest," he said in his statement.

BANKS RETAIL LOAN PORTFOLIO



Even Michael Debabrata Patra, the deputy governor, in one of his recent speeches said that conventional wisdom suggests that retail loans being diffused across a wide borrower base mitigate the accumulation of systemic risk, but the RBI is watchful as herding by banks in the retail loan space might lead to potential cascades across the system if defaults do occur.

Growth momentum to continue

But are banks also concerned about the surge in retail credit?

"...it (retail loan portfolio) has been built with our core principles of return of capital and harnessing ecosystems and, I think we have been saying this for a lot of time. For us, the customer is more important than the product and, most of the increases have been for portfolios where there have been existing relationships. Almost 85% of the portfolio comprises salaried employees with customers being employed with the reputed corporates, MNCs, government entities, PSUs, defence, etc," says Patra when media asked about the RBI's growing concern with high growth in retail loans.

The bank's CFO Anindya Banerjee told the media that for personal loans, the bank will continue to monitor the portfolio and whatever comes through the credit filters in the customer segments that it is comfortable with, it will take that.

"In any case, we are not par-

ticularly targeting a certain level of loan growth. If credit conditions are not so favourable in our view and we need to prune it by a percentage point or two that is fine. But, currently there is no softness in the secured loan categories either," said Anindya Banerjee.

Amitabh Chaudhry, CEO of Axis Bank, sees the growth momentum in retail credit 'continuing at this point in time'. "Whatever we grow and whatever pace you grow at, it is all based on certain risk guardrails, certain outlook and understanding of risks which we have as a Bank, and we will keep that in mind as we grow," Chaudhry further adds.

Govt ain't complaining

And while the RBI has been raising the red flag on high retail loan growth, the government is not complaining.

In its Monthly Economic Review, the finance ministry says that increased demand for housing and vehicle loans reflects the confidence of the households in their future employment and income prospects. The report pointed out that the magnitude of vehicle loans, an important indicator of growth in private consumption, has been growing at double-digits since April 2022, and housing loans have been seeing 'a steady double-digit growth' since May 2021.

"Households are making a smart investment choice of acquiring physical assets, taking advantage of larger credit availability from banks and after a long period of elevated



Whatever we grow and whatever pace you grow at, it is all based on certain risk guardrails, certain outlook and understanding of risks which we have as a Bank, and we will keep that in mind as we grow.

Amitabh Chaudhry, CEO of Axis Bank

returns in financial assets," says the report.

In August, retail loans rose by 18.3% year-on-year and remained the prime contributor of overall credit growth. Credit to the housing sector recorded consistent double-digit expansion (13.8% in August) while vehicle loan growth strengthened to 20.6%. Credit card loans maintained high growth (30.0% in August) reflecting the buoyancy in demand from contact-intensive services.

Even a couple of Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) members see the increase in household liabilities as a big positive. According to Dr Ashima Goyal, The rise in financial liabilities implies a rise in household physical investment and shows the interest sensitivity of demand in India, with a youthful population borrowing to acquire assets.

"This willingness to consume at the cost of reducing savings is very important because it is household consumption that has been propping up the economy in the face of headwinds from fiscal consolidation, weak external demand and tepid capital investment," noted Prof Jayanth R. Varma.

Dr Ashima Goyal, though, cautioned against sudden rise in household debt, even if it is low by international standards. "It is best to restrain over-enthusiasm in good times and thus avoid a crash. Prudential tightening, such as raising LTV ratios or risk weights, would be preferable to raising policy rates more," she said.

MADHAVI ARORA

THE latest developments in the rates markets globally are a reminder that a return to normal still has a long way to go. The resilience in both inflation and growth is reinforcing the higher-for-longer (HFL) stances of central banks even as financial and geopolitical shocks loom over the outlook.

Specifically, the movement in UST yields (longer-term) has been material in DMs. We have long argued that higher interest rates are a key part of the new regime, as supply constraints may make inflation persistent, while bond supply is swelling due to high deficits, and macro and geopolitical volatility abounds. The US 2s10s yield curve has continued to steepen at one of the fastest paces over the past decade, with UST10Y now crossing the 2007 peak.

The recent surge in nominal long-end yields has been led by: (1) higher supply in recent quarters, (2) higher real yields (which rose as markets faded recession risks) contributing more than inflation expectations (which have trended down amid negative inflation surprises in recent months), and (3) Fed repricing and soft landing narrative leading to higher term premia. The term premium appears to be positive for the first time since 2017.

Key factors that could keep the rates higher

1. Growth resilience: Among other factors, a resilient US economy and higher than estimated excess savings could be growth supportive for the US economy despite tighter monetary stance. Clearly, massive rate hikes over the past 18 months have not yet impacted HHs and businesses meaningfully, with their spending keeping the economy more robust than previously expected.

The recent data revision by BEA meant that the leftover excess saving stood at around \$0.7-0.8tn in 2Q, notably higher than the \$0.2-0.3tn figure estimated based on pre-revision data.

Besides, the labor market also remains tight. JOLTS data shows job openings/unemployed ratio is still much higher than pre-Covid levels despite correcting. Structurally, Labor

participation rate has remained below pre-Covid levels, which itself is much lower than pre-GFC levels.

Separately, housing is turning into a persistent problem. A variety of factors has supported the housing market this cycle. Some are structural, such as under-building of homes in the US over the years and increasing household formation. The supply of existing homes has dropped sharply as potential sellers back away because they want to hold onto existing low mortgage rates. These factors suggest inflation is still a threat, and the Fed will have to crush consumption or the labor market—or both—to bring inflation back to target, which translates to a floor under rates for a while. While the academic debate on R* (equilibrium real



rate) has been brewing, we note that this cycle has seen the real policy terminal rate lower than past cycles.

2. Higher expected inflation volatility: Structurally higher volatility in inflation, such as from climate-related supply disruptions, greenflation, AI, ageing population or geopolitical flare-ups. If these indeed turn out to be the case, there will likely be less certainty around long-term rates, that deserves more of a term premium. Besides, a multitude of shocks have to be confronted concurrently. In terms of growth, post-pandemic scarring, wars, inflation, rate spikes & climate change; all need to be dealt with agility.

3. Surge of US debt that could see fewer buyers: The net Treasury issuance in FY23 is 2nd highest on record, though well short of the record flood in 2020. The traditional US banking system is funding itself through reserves rather than Treasuries, and foreign buyers may be pulling away as well. With deficit sustainability re-

maining an issue, the price of fiscal money likely stays elevated.

Where does the endgame lie?

Is 5%++ for UST10Y the new reality?

Supply constraints make inflation persistent- bond supply is swelling due to high deficits; and macro and geopolitical volatility abound.

We think the yield surge driven by expected policy rates is nearing a peak. But rising term premium will likely be the next driver of higher yields, led by greater macro volatility, persistent inflation plus large fiscal deficits and debt issuances, which means that 5%++ is not really elusive for 10-yr UST yield.

Interestingly, even with high geopolitical risks, the conventional safe haven status of UST hasn't played out this time, depicting how focused investors are on H4L and worsening supply dynamics.

In order to see an end to the sell-off in the long-end of the curve, some combination of these is needed: (i) economic data deterioration; (ii) tighter financial conditions; (iii) positioning; (iv) cheaper valuations; (v) a shift in Fed policy stance, e.g., Fed becoming less hawkish; and (vi) new sources of Treasury demand emerging. Generally, the Fed is content to let the bear steepening do its job and as the Fed remains patient, the curve is likely to continue to bear steepen. However, if one sees supply/demand imbalances as the primary culprit behind this recent move in yields, then the structural trends may not be too supportive.

That said, there is also a good chance that in the near term Treasury yields swing in either direction or see two-way volatility ahead. Softer policy tone and "politics of inflation" (dominance of growth over inflation) may ease off some pressure in the near term. But overall, supposedly a higher R* implies US economic growth can persist even with relatively high short-term rates, reinforcing Higher for longer.

Madhavi Arora is the lead economist at Emsky Global Institutional Equities desk. She spearheads the Macro research for India and major developed and emerging nations, focusing on policy arena, FX and rates and asset allocation strategies

UltraTech to invest ₹13,000 cr for 22 mtpa capacity expansion

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Chennai

ULTRATECH CEMENT has announced the third phase of investment of ₹13,000 crore towards increasing the capacity by another 21.9 million tonnes per annum (MTPA).

The Board of Directors at its

meeting on Saturday approved the investment, which would take the total domestic capacity from 132.45 MTPA to 154.35 MTPA.

UltraTech plans setting up 4 greenfield and 4 brownfield plants along with 4 greenfield bulk terminals. Commercial production from these new ca-

pacities is expected to complete in a phased manner from 2026 financial year. The expansion will be funded by internal resources, according to the exchange filings by the company.

UltraTech cement has a target of reaching a capacity of 200 million tonnes.

Over the past seven years, UltraTech has strategically invested over Rs 50,000 crores, said Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman of Aditya Birla Group. "Our fresh commitment of Rs 13,000 crores underscores our deep-rooted belief in India's economic potential. With each

investment, we have not only expanded our footprint but also powered India's needs for housing, roads, and other vital infrastructure," he was quoted as saying. With this round of capex UltraTech reinforces its position as one of the largest cement firms in the world, he added.

EXPRESS READ

Yes Bank raises stake in JC Flowers ARC

NEW DELHI: Yes Bank on Saturday said it has acquired 2.4 crore additional shares of J C Flowers Asset Reconstruction (JC Flowers ARC), taking its stake to 9.9%. JC Flowers shares were transferred from JCF ARC LLC to the bank on October 27. PTI

AU Small Finance Bank profit up 17% to ₹402 cr

NEW DELHI: AU Small Finance Bank on Saturday reported 17% rise in standalone net profit at ₹402 crore for Q2FY22 aided by improvement in interest income. The Jaipur-based lender had logged a net profit of ₹343 crore in the year-ago period. PTI

Q 2 F Y 2 4 R E S U L T S



SBI Card Q2 net profit up 15% to ₹603 crore

NEW DELHI: SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd (SBI Card) has reported a 15% jump in net profit at ₹603 crore for the second quarter of FY24 on higher income. The credit card company, promoted by State Bank of India (SBI), had reported a net profit of ₹526 crore in the previous quarter a year ago. Total income of the bank in the second quarter of the current fiscal jumped 22% to ₹4,221 crore, from ₹3,453 crore a year ago, SBI Card said in a regulatory filing. The interest income increased 28% to ₹1,902 crore, while income from other sources increased 21% to ₹2,186 crore. The company's asset quality slightly deteriorated with the gross non-performing assets rising to 2.43% of the gross advances as of September, from 2.14% a year earlier. Net NPAs (bad loans) also increased to 0.89% from 0.78% in the corresponding quarter of last year. ENS

BPCL net profit rises to ₹8,243.55 cr as marketing margins improves

NEW DELHI: STATE-owned Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) reported a consolidated net profit of ₹8,243.55 crore for in July-September quarter of FY24 as compared to a loss of ₹338.49 crore in the same period a year back, the company said in a statement.

The profit was aided by a boost in marketing margins as a freeze on petrol and diesel price revision despite a fall in input crude oil prices helped recover losses incurred when rates were high last year. Pre-tax earnings from the downstream oil refining and marketing business came at ₹11,283.29 crore in the second quarter of the current fiscal as compared to a loss of ₹123.17 crore in the same period last year.

Last year, state-owned fuel retailers BPCL, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) froze prices despite a spike in global oil prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. This was with a view to insulate consumers from price volatility.

The price freeze led to the three firms incurring losses in the first half of 2022-23 fiscal year (April 2022 to March 2023). BPCL incurred a loss of ₹6,486.43 crore in April-September 2022. This year, it however posted record earnings of ₹18,887.85 crore in April-September 2023. ENS

MoUs worth ₹4,600cr signed at Uttarakhand Global Investor Summit roadshow in B'luru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Uttarakhand government on Saturday signed MoUs with 18 companies for investments worth Rs 4,600 crore during the Uttarakhand Global Investor Summit 2023 roadshow in Bengaluru.

Addressing the investors, Cabinet Minister Rekha Arya said after the formation of a separate state in 2000, Uttarakhand has established its identity at the global level. It has seen rapid growth in many sectors, including food processing, beverages, textiles, and apparel. The minister said the government has identified focus sectors for investment, which are traditional sectors of the state like tourism and hospitality, AYUSH and wellness, film shooting and food processing, automobiles, pharma as well as upcoming sectors like renewable energy.

Cabinet Minister Subodh Uniyal said the State Government is also promoting wellness tour-



Uttarakhand ministers Rekha Arya and Subodh Uniyal at the roadshow of Uttarakhand Global Investor Summit 2023 in Bengaluru on Saturday | EXPRESS

ism. AYUSH, wellness, and tourism have been given industry status by the State Government so that investors in these sectors can take advantage of the incentives provided to industries under the industrial policies of the state.

He said that rail, road, and

air connectivity is continuously improving in Uttarakhand. Being close to the National Capital Region, it enjoys the added advantage of trade and commercial hubs and excellent connectivity with neighboring states, the minister further said.

The minister invited investors to participate in the state's Global Investors Summit-2023, which is scheduled to be held on December 8-9.

During the roadshow organised at a private hotel in Bengaluru, a detailed presentation on the investment opportunities in Uttarakhand was also shown to the investors.

The companies that are investing in the state, include Bharat Semiconductor Society (cluster of MSME units for semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem), Hayes Precision Products Limited (Auto Component Plant), Redwood Group (Tourism Resort), KEC Agritech (Alternative Energy), Himalayan Basket (FP manufacturing), Silage Agro (animal nutrition, fodder, embryo transfer, and cluster based dairy farming) and Inspire (skilling, women entrepreneurship), according to a statement. So far, MoUs worth Rs 69300 crore have been signed in UAE, Britain, Delhi and Bengaluru, the release stated.



Scaling peaks with singles & doubles

In-form Kohli, the anointed king of chase, is doing what he does best as he looks to inspire India against England in Lucknow today

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@Lucknow

THE Awadh province is an important piece of India that's locked away in the history books. Capital for arts and culture, the region has a pride of place for varying reasons. There was a serious uprising against the British after it was annexed in the 1850s. In 1925, the Kakori train robbery was one of the most successful standalone acts of rebellion against the Empire. The city is also known for its rich architecture (the Bara Imambara) and food (tunde ke kabab) among other things. Then, there were the Nawabs, the rulers of the region. That's why Lucknow was given the moniker of 'City of Nawabs'.

On Sunday, 11 Indian men will continue their quest to become kings in a place that's been hosting royalty for the last three centuries. Speaking of royalty, Virat Kohli, who has rediscovered his love for monsterring chases, has another chance to equal one of ODI's grand milestones. 49 tons. Before the pandemic began, it was assumed to be a matter of time. When it was raging, Kohli's graph took a downturn. Over the last 12 months though, the No. 3 has become the apex predator again.

There is a very specific way with which the 34-year-old goes about proceedings when going after a target. He's not the heavy-metal batter who wants to set his terms straightaway (Rohit Sharma is the one with that role). Kohli likes to take his time before imposing himself on the opposition these days. He's somebody whose preferred



Virat Kohli's search for his 49th ODI ton will continue against England on Saturday

MOST RUNS RAN ON FIELD		
Batter	Singles	Twos
Kohli	164	19
Ravindra	150	23
Rizwan	133	23
Markram	132	13
De Kock	127	19
Samarawickrama	100	23

*Stats accurate till NZ-Australia match

mode is to asphyxiate bowlers before going through the gears when the end is sight. Slow death as opposed to an ambush. He's always been blessed with that innate ability to play according to the situation and he's doing that again. He has passed 50 four times in five World Cup games and there is enough evidence to suggest this is why he has always been in control of the situation. Against Australia, he walked into bat in the first over and consumed 116 balls for his 85. The one thing he told KL Rahul was to play the early phase of that innings like a Test match. He practiced what he preached; he was on 23 after 49 balls. With a small target to chase, he knew he could play this way. On a better batting

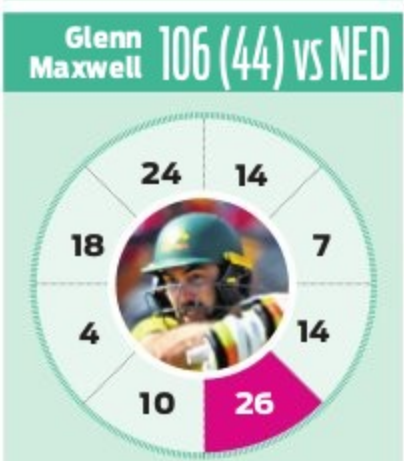
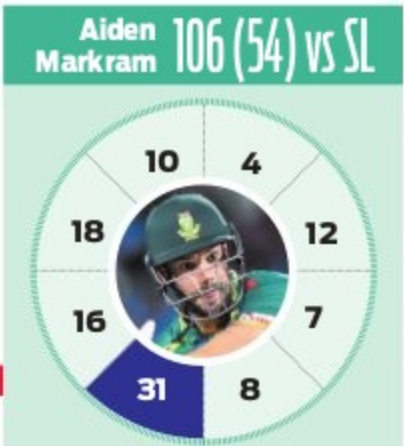
strip against Afghanistan in New Delhi, he focused on milking the bowling and giving the strike to Rohit Sharma who was batting on 102 when he walked in. He was given a free hand at dictating the tempo in the third game against Bangladesh because he was welcomed with multiple free-hits. Even then, after scoring at a strike rate of 190 in his first 10 deliveries, he settled into a familiar rhythm of ones and twos in the middle overs. With no great scoreboard pressure, he knew he could do this. It's why each of India's first five games has been without any jeopardy. Sharma has broken the chase early doors before Kohli's slow death in the company of Shreyas Iyer and/or KL Rahul. "The pitch was good, (it) allowed me to play my game," he had said after his 48th ODI 100 against Bangladesh.

While some of the truly epic Kohli chases (think Sri Lanka against Hobart) have been violent, this is how he has elevated his white-ball craft into an art form. Ones and twos like they are on tap and boundaries on demand. Here's some numbers from the ongoing World Cup to

further illustrate this point. He may be the fourth highest run-scorer (354) but in terms of fours, he's only joint-eighth (29). For sixes, he's joint-18th. Where he makes up are in the singles (164; 14 better than Rachin Ravindra in second) and twos (19; fourth-best). It's the bellwether in his batting arsenal. Sure, his cover-drives may inspire next generation poets but it's the simple things in his armoury that has kept him relevant for the TikTokers and the Insta reelers as well as the purists. But there was a phase when it refused to. From early 2022 to the end of the Australia series in March 2023, he had compiled 235 runs in 10 innings at an average of 23.5 while chasing a total. It involved a run of 8, 16, 17, 5, 11 and 4 (he had made scores of 113, 113 and an unbeaten 166 while batting first in the middle of this run so it wasn't that he was out of form which in itself is an abstract term). It was also around the time when he bared his soul in an emotional interview. "I came to the realisation that I was trying to fake my intensity a bit recently," he had said. "I was convincing myself that 'no, you had the intensity'. But your body is telling you to stop. Your mind is telling me to take a break and step back. I'm looked at as a guy who has been mentally very strong and I am. But everyone has a limit and you need to recognize that limit, otherwise, things can get unhealthy for you."

At this World Cup, Kohli has retained the intensity but with child-like enthusiasm for the small things. Chasing milestones for all those misses during the pandemic. Haring those ones and twos. Laughing with the team during the must-not-miss post-match medal presentation for best fielder.

Come Sunday, he will get another crack at ODI century No. 49. Don't be surprised if he does get it. For this city — this region — has witnessed coronations for the majority of its existence.



GOMESH S @Chennai

ON Wednesday, when Glenn Maxwell came out to bat for Australia against Netherlands at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, New Delhi, the scoreboard read 266/4. Number of balls left in the game — 66 (11 overs). By the time he walked back to the dressing room in the final over of the innings, the scorecard read 393/7. Maxwell 106 runs from 44 balls — fastest hundred in the history of the tournament. They would finish with 399/8 before registering a massive 309-run victory.

To put the numbers into context, Australia scored 133 runs in last 66 balls, 106 coming of Maxwell's bat. That is 79.7 per cent of the team's runs since he came out to bat. A perfect example of what a middle-order explosive batter can do for the team. Since the start of this World Cup, the conversations have been around winning the contest in the middle-overs. While that has not happened, teams with explosive middle-order batters have thrived. Now, almost all teams try to pack their middle-order with big hitters or batters who could run away with the contest. This World Cup has been no different and there are different reasons to it. Take India, for example, their top-order has been so explosive that the No. 5-7 hasn't had to do that much. There was a fifty here and a fifty there, but largely it is the top three who is running the show for India — that Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli are among top run-getters sums it up. Not all teams have the luxury though. Some have relied on the middle-order to give them



James Neesham's (bottom) valiant knock was not enough for New Zealand | PTI

Australia's Head-start ends in NZ heartbreak

AGENCIES @ Dharamsala

Australia overcame New Zealand by five runs in a thrilling game to continue their winning run in the World Cup here on Saturday.

Batting first, Australia amassed 388 and then stopped the Kiwis at 383 for nine in 50 overs. This is the highest cumulative score by two teams in a World Cup game — 771, surpassing 754 set during game between South Africa and Sri Lanka in the ongoing competition. Travis Head smashed 109 off 67 balls in his first World



the necessary boost. Table-toppers South Africa are one among them. Off the 1908 runs scored by them so far, 966 have come from batters 4-7. That is about half the runs made by them. To put it into context, second-placed India have about 30 per cent of their runs coming from their middle-order. Now, this alone does not represent success. For example, Pakistan, too, have almost half their runs from the middle-order and yet they find themselves at the bottom half of the table.

Two things separate South Africa from others. A) Their top-order is flourishing and the middle-order are complementing them. B) Unlike other teams, their middle-order strikes at

ORDER OF THE MIDDLE				
Batter	M	R	AVG	SR
Markram	6	356	59.3	115.96
Rizwan	6	333	66.6	97.36
Mitchell	6	322	80.5	107.69
Klaasen	6	300	50	149.25
Sadeera	5	295	98.33	106.49
Maxwell	6	196	39.2	148.5

127.27. Aiden Markram (356 runs, 59.33 avg and 115.96 strike rate), Heinrich Klaasen (300 runs, 50 avg, 149.25 SR) and David Miller (167 runs, 41.75 avg, 119.28 SR) have hit a new gear in a way that they have made South Africa look invincible, especially while batting first. Whether it's upper cutting Haris Rauf or hitting bowlers over cover-extra cover; Markram is batting like he is living up to his 'talent' tag. Klaasen, on the other hand, is batting in middle-overs like Rohit Sharma does in the power play. It does not seem to matter what the line and length is, if it's in his range, Klaasen has deposited it into the stands, especially over midwicket region.

Their captain Temba Bavuma knows the significance of their contribution too. "Aiden can play both roles. Klaasen, the

way he's hitting the ball. That explosiveness we have in our middle-order obviously helped us to be really destructive in the death phase," Bavuma said in Chennai. If Markram and Klaasen have set a template of their own, there is someone like Maxwell who bats in his own axis. He hits the ball like a golfer, vertical bat, straight down the 'V'. At the same time, he also exploits the 'V' behind the stumps like no other. During his record-breaking century against Netherlands, 35 per cent of his runs came in the 'V' behind and 34 in the front. His hitting areas are clear for the opponent too, but what's working for Maxwell is how he is making the line and length irrelevant when he gets going. "I don't really lap, I didn't really go inside out over cover; I didn't sort of give my stumps away too much. I reversed a couple of times but that's only because I had a read on what they were trying to do and the field was up. I didn't really try and take a fielder on and I knew if I could play one or two, I'd get a different type of ball," he said in New Delhi. On Saturday, too, Maxwell's 24-ball 41 proved to be a significant boost when it seemed like Australia were losing the momentum against New Zealand. Almost half his runs came in the 'V' on either side.

Batters like Klaasen, Maxwell, Markram might not be single-handedly shaping the fortunes of their teams. What they are doing, however, is ensuring that their respective teams are running away with the contests once the platform is set. The points table paints a clear picture. And so does the story of teams with middle-order batters who have not come to the party — defending champs England's middle-order averages 18 with a SR of 88.9.

The bottomline, in a World Cup that has been high-scoring, is that it all comes down to having such explosive middle-order batters in the arsenal.

EXPRESS READ

Gujrathi beats Kollars, Vaishali moves up

ISLE OF MAN: Vidit Gujrathi showed his technical brilliance to down Dmitriy Kollars of Germany and score his second straight victory in the third round of FIDE Grand Swiss. Arjun Erigaisi drew with Alexey Sarana. In the women's, R Vaishali crushed Leya Garifullina.

Big win for Arsenal, Chelsea suffer defeat

LONDON: Chelsea slumped to another damaging home defeat (0-2) against Brentford on Saturday as Eddie Nketiah hit a hat-trick in a 5-0 win for Arsenal against Sheffield. **Results: Saturday:** Chelsea 0-2 Brentford; Arsenal 5-0 Sheffield; Bournemouth 2-1 Burnley. **Friday:** Palace 1-2 Spurs.

No need for passes to attend Nat'l Games

PANAJI: Goa government has opened all the venues of the National Games 2023 for general public and they can witness the sporting event without the need to have any passes, a minister said on Saturday. Goa sports department said all the venues will be open for general public.

REAL BOOST: BELLINGHAM STUNS BARCA WITH BRACE IN CLASICO VICTORY

BARCELONA: Jude Bellingham's stunning double snatched Real Madrid a 2-1 comeback victory at Barcelona in his first La Liga Clasico on Saturday. The England international unleashed a rocket into the top corner from distance after Ilkay Gundogan had sent hosts Barcelona ahead at the Olympic Stadium. Bellingham then fired home a second in stoppage time to silence Barcelona fans. Bellingham's brace sent Madrid to the top of La Liga, ahead of Girona on goal difference, with both teams four points ahead of Barcelona in third.

DID YOU KNOW?

WORLD CUP TRIVIA
A total of twenty teams have competed in the twelve editions of the tournament held every four years from 1975 onwards.

Netherlands shock B'desh

AGENCIES @ Kolkata

NETHERLANDS captain Scott Edwards led from the front as his side enjoyed another World Cup success with an 87-run hammering of Bangladesh.

Saturday's victory in Kolkata followed the non-Test side's shock defeat of South Africa earlier. The Netherlands were indebted to wicketkeeper-batsman Edwards, whose innings top-score of 68 led a recovery from 63-4 and 107-5 to 229 all out. The Tigers collapsed to 70-6 and were eventually dismissed for 142. **Brief scores:** Netherlands 229 in 50 ovs (Edwards 68, Barresi 41; Mustafizur 2/36) **bt** Bangladesh 142 in 42.2 ovs (Mehidy 35; Van Meekeren 4/23).

Manu claims quota for India

ENS @ Chennai

MANU Bhaker is undoubtedly one of the talented shooters in the country. That has been evident ever since her junior days. However, the last couple of years has been a difficult test for her. She was no longer the undisputed No 1 in pistol in the country and was forced to do away with one of her events (10m air pistol) in international meets. Though things were not in her favour, Manu persisted. Her persistence has paid off as she won an Olympic quota for India in the ongoing Asian Shooting Championships in Changwon, South Korea. She finished fifth in the women's 25m sports pistol.

Kuldeep, Jadeja: India's sharp Swiss Army knife

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN
@Lucknow

A question. Who have been the three most economical bowlers, irrespective of type at the World Cup (minimum = 35 overs). Jasprit Bumrah's coruscating understanding of line and length means his 3.80 at an average of 16.27 isn't a surprise. What, though, has worked for India's bowling unit is the way Ravindra Jadeja (3.97 at 27.14) and Kuldeep Yadav (4.74 at 29.62) have choked the opposition's hitters through the middle-overs.

The only time one of them was remotely threatened was when Rachin Ravindra and Daryl Mitchell went after the latter at Dharamsala. Even though Kuldeep ended up conceding 73 across his 10 overs, he had recovered in his latter spells after travelling the distance in his first few stanzas. It offered the team management a chance to see whether the left-arm spinner

would have a dip in confidence. Instead, he showed why they were right in trusting him to bowl the big overs. Apart from putting a lid on the scoring, he removed Tom Latham and Glenn Phillips in the second phase of the Black Caps innings. If Kuldeep is India's primary spinner in terms of picking up wickets, Ravindra Jadeja is the go-to option to deliver a few quiet overs. Between them, they form the perfect Swiss Army knife. Bringing down the run rate? Check. Taking wickets? Check. While teams may be shy in fielding two left-arm spinners in the same XI, India willingly do it because of the different skill-sets they bring to the table. Coach Rahul Dravid touched upon it before the match against the Kiwis. "It's nice for us to have both of them in the last three games, a lot of experience, different skills as well, even though both of them are left-arm spinners," he had said. **Full story: newindianexpress.com**



Historic Asian Para Games for India

AGENCIES @ Hangzhou

INDIAN para athletes created history on Saturday as they ended their Hangzhou Asian Para Games campaign with an unprecedented 111 medals, the biggest haul for the country in any major international multi-sport event.

With 29 gold, 31 silver and 51 bronze in their kitty, the Indian para athletes won four medals more than the record tally of 107 won by the able-bodied athletes in the Asian Games held from September 23 to October 8. India ended at fifth place in the medals tally, a remarkable achievement in itself, below China (521 medals: 214 gold, 167 silver, 140 bronze), Iran (131: 44, 46, 41), Japan (150: 42, 49, 59)



India finished fifth in the overall medals tally | PTI

and Korea (103: 30, 33, 40). The first Para Asian Games was held in 2010 in Guangzhou, China, where India had finished 15th with 14 medals, including one gold. Four years later, India had finished ninth. The only earlier instance of India crossing the 100-medal mark in a ma-

jor international multi-sport event (Olympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games) was the 101 medals the country won during the 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games. Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur said the performance was the result of forward-looking policies and the government's focus on the grassroots. "This performance reflects the hard work of our athletes and the introduction of the right policies in sports under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Be it the Khelo India Scheme at the grassroots level or the Target Olympic Podium Scheme for elite athletes, the support extended through these schemes is indeed showing results now."

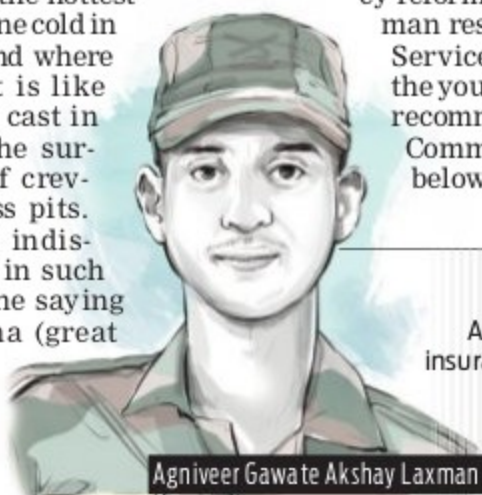
POLICY POSER AFTER AGNIVEER'S SIACHEN CASUALTY

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

SIACHEN, the world's highest battlefield, was back in news recently after a young soldier in his twenties lost his life due to the vagaries of the inclement weather there. The strategically located 72 km-long glacier held by India is part of the unfinished business of partition between India and Pakistan after Independence. It's wedged between Pakistan on the one side and China on the other. Since the Siachen glacier is located more than 20,000 ft above the mean sea level where the temperature could plummet at times to minus 60°Celsius, the conditions there have taken more human lives than through enemy engagement.

Agniveer Gawate Akshay Laxman died in the line of duty on October 22 while serving with his unit that was deployed to guard Siachen. Over there, life gets tested every moment as even the hottest cup of soup turns stone cold in just a few seconds and where physical movement is like walking with a lead cast in the feet. Besides, the surroundings are full of crevices with bottomless pits. Acclimatisation is indispensable to survive in such harsh weather. As the saying goes, Don't be Gama (great wrestler) in the land of Lama.

In fact, it was the frustrating deaths on both sides due to



Agniveer Gawate Akshay Laxman

the icy weather that led India and Pakistan to consider a proposal to turn this area into a peace park. But, the lack of bilateral trust and the overwhelming strategic importance of this long stretch of the glacier finally got the proposal canned.

Unfortunately, two Agniveers died within a short span, putting the scheme for induction at the soldier/sailor/airmen levels in focus again. On October 11, Agniveer Amritpal Singh, 19, died in Jammu, but was not accorded a military funeral. The Army later clarified that it was because he died of a self-inflicted wound. Officials said no guard of honour is provided when the death is by suicide. The second, of course, was of Laxman in Siachen.

Genesis of the scheme

The Union Cabinet in June 2022 approved a new human resources policy for personnel other than officers in the armed forces. Called Agniveer, it was termed a major policy reform to usher in a new era in the human resource management of the three Services. The scheme aims to enhance the youth profile—one of the important recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee Report—of the personnel below officer rank from 32 to 26 years

Death compensation

Agniveers have a non-contributory life insurance cover of ₹48 lakh. An additional ex-gratia of ₹44 lakh for death attributable to service is paid to the next of kin of the victim. The Seva Nidhi is also paid to the next of kin

PROBLEMS FACED BY SOLDIERS POSTED IN SIACHEN

1 High Altitude Pulmonary Oedema (HAPO): Most deaths occur at high-altitude from this illness. Majority of these cases are seen in soldiers who come back from leave and are not acclimatised. The incidence of high altitude pulmonary oedema is related to the rate of ascent, the altitude reached, individual susceptibility and exertion

2 Acute Mountain Sickness: Symptoms for this disease usually develops 6-10 hours after ascent. However, they could come on as early as 1 hour. Recognising the symptoms at the earliest is of the utmost importance as it could lead to high altitude cerebral oedema (HACO).

3 Effects of the cold: Soldiers can suffer from hypothermia, frostbite and chilblains during routine patrol. Even their sweat can turn into ice in their gloves and shoes which allows for frostbite to take hold.

4 Carbon Monoxide Poisoning: Lighting of bukharis (heater) in closed spaces can lead to Carbon Monoxide Poisoning. This is especially dangerous as the symptoms do not become immediately apparent.

5 Injuries due to Non Enemy Action (NEA): Many soldiers have lost their life or have had severe spinal cord injuries due to hard ice formation which are found at the bottom of crevasses.

6 Avalanche poses a threat to their lives. Hence, camps have to be set at those locations which have the least avalanche risk



Army personnel pay tribute to Agniveer Gawate Akshay Laxman, who lost his life in the line of duty

Disability compensation

Compensation is based on the percentage of disability laid down by medical authorities. One time ex-gratia of ₹44/25/15 lakhs is paid for 100%/75%/50% disability, respectively

of age.

The Department of Military Affairs in the ministry of defence, during the tenure of General Bipin Rawat, the first Chief of Defence Staff, had put the 'prospective life term saving' by recruiting an Agniveer—as opposed to a jawan who leaves after 17 years of service with pension and other benefits—at ₹11.5 crore. The money thus saved would be used for capital acquisition, inducting new systems and equipment into the services, it had suggested.

The Indian military's capital to revenue ratio expenditure, which includes salaries and operating costs, comes to around 40:60. For example, in financial year 2022-23, the service pension outlay was ₹1,19,696 crore of the overall defence outlay of ₹5,25,166 crore, which turns out to be 22.79%—and is expected to increase progressively.

Since the Agniveer scheme does not include pension or provide job security, military veterans and sections of the people were wary of it. The scheme also became a political punchbag with opposition parties panning the government for penny-pinching.

Position in units

Agniveers form a distinct rank in the armed forces, different from any other existing rank. Their induction is for four years. On completion of their tenure, they are sent back home but by then they would have picked up skills for employment in other sectors. A fresh window for their re-induction, too, opens for 25% of the trained Agniveers. Those chosen then get to serve as permanent cadre in the forces.

Under the old system, youth between 16.5 years and 21 years were selected for a minimum of 15 years of service and subsequently received a pension.

Acclimatisation

At present, 46,000 Agniveers have been recruited. Their intake will go up to 1.25 lakh in the near future. When an Agniveer is assigned a unit, the person travels with it depending on the nature of the movement—field or peace. Agniveer Laxman happened to be on a unit that was posted to Siachen. The standard operating procedure for super high altitude postings includes acclimatisation in three phases.

For soldiers assigned posts between 9,000-12,000 ft above mean sea level, six-day acclimatisation is a must before deployment for duty. For posts above 12,000 and up to 15,000 ft, it is mandatory for a soldier to spend four more days above 12,000 ft before deployment. An additional four days of acclimatisation

is required for those getting posted above 15,000 ft, which is the super high altitude area in military parlance. India has several such locations to which units are deployed in rotation.

Financial package

The composite monthly package for an Agniveer during the first year is ₹30,000. It gets upgraded up to ₹40,000 in fourth year. All allowances like risk and hardship, ration, dress, travel allowances are applicable like regular soldiers. However, in the case of Siachen, allowances are same for all—from officers to Agniveers. It works out to around ₹41,000 for those getting posted to Siachen. In addition, a special ration is applicable for everyone there.

Further, the Agniveer gets enrolled in a Seva Nidhi for which 30% of monthly emoluments are contributed them and an equal amount is pooled in by the government. This saving of ₹10.04 lakh plus interest after four years is exempt from income tax.

Problem areas

Recruitments under the Agnipath scheme is not commensurate with the demand for soldiers. The eligibility age is in the range of 17.5 to 21 years and the enrolment is done in various categories and trades, including technical. Raising the recruitment numbers is one possible way out. Between 2022 and 2026, around 1.75 lakh Agniveers are expected to be recruited. A bunch of proposal are under consideration "to make up for the decline in a planned manner. Otherwise, it might turn into bigger problems, both functional and operational," sources said.

"The cap in the recruitment age at 21 years is leaving a smaller pool of eligible candidates. There is a proposal to raise this to 23 years so that we can get the youth passing out of polytechnic institutions," said sources. Another idea is to raise the percentage of Agniveers who are permanently absorbed to 50%—up from the existing 25%. Besides, a proposal to induct eligible candidates for technical streams such as aviation, engineering, electronics and other similar trades, is also being looked into.

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

THE landslide victory registered by the National Conference-Congress alliance in the recent Kargil Hill Development Council polls was on expected lines. But it drew national attention as it was the first expression of popular will there ever since the reading down of Article 370 in J&K. On August 5, 2019, J&K not only lost its special status but was also downgraded to the level of a Union Territory. Two Union Territories were simultaneously created—J&K with a legislature and Ladakh without a legislature.

Coming as the Ladakh verdict did barely a few months ahead of the general elections, analysts have been trying to discern from it the direction the poll winds could possibly take in Ladakh and J&K when the big battle of the ballot begins. The NC and the Congress went to polls with a seat-sharing arrangement. Both NC and Congress are part of the Opposition's INDIA bloc. They have been traditional big hitters in the council polls. Of the 26 Kargil Hill Council seats, the NC won 12 and the Congress 10 while the BJP and Independents won two each. In all, the Kargil Hill Council has 30 members, 26 of whom make it by direct franchise while the other four are nominated.

LAB-KDA factor

The Ladakh Union Territory comprises two districts—the Muslim-dominated Kargil and the Buddhist-dominated Leh—with an overall population of over 3 lakh. While people and political parties in Kargil opposed the messing around with 370 and the bifurcation of state, those in Leh cheered and celebrated the demise of the special status. But this Leh euphoria did not last long. Political parties, traders, religious and civil society groups of the district came together to form the Leh Apex Body (LAB) with former BJP MP Thupstan Chhewang as its head to fight for constitutional safeguards for the new Union Territory.

The LAB later joined hands with the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), an amalgam of various political parties, traders and civil society groups of Kargil district. Both LAB and KDA are now jointly demanding the grant of Sixth Schedule status, statehood

with legislature, two Lok Sabha seats and reservation of jobs for locals in Ladakh—similar to what existed before Article 370's abrogation. BJP is the only political party that is not part of LAB and KDA.

Even the innovator, environmentalist and engineer Sonam Wangchuk of the Three Idots fame aligned himself with the LAB and KDA. He went on to hold a series of climate fasts to press the Central government on the Sixth Schedule status. The Sixth Schedule under Article 244 of the Constitution allows forming autonomous administrative councils in select tribal areas. Such councils have legislative, judicial and administrative au-

tonomy within a state. The Sixth Schedule is specifically meant for administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

Omar calls it referendum

Given this backdrop, the victory of the NC and the Congress in Kargil Hill Council polls cannot be dismissed as routine. Former J&K chief minister and National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah was understandably euphoric when he described the outcome as a referendum against the Centre's decision to nullify Article 370. "Residents of Ladakh have outrightly rejected the decision of Cen-

tral government to bifurcate the erstwhile state of J&K into two Union Territories and abrogate Articles 370 and 35A," he said.

Kargil-based political analyst Sajjad Kargili, who unsuccessfully contested the 2019 parliamentary elections from Ladakh, said the message is loud and clear that people are angry with BJP and the Central government. "They are angry over Article 370 abrogation, bifurcation of J&K state and the present set up in Ladakh UT," he said. How does he explain the BJP doubling its tally from one in the last polls to two now? The BJP, he said, should have swept the polls because the entire government machinery is with them, yet it managed only two. The poll results, he added, will definitely have an impact on parliamentary polls in Ladakh.

If the NC-Congress alliance continues and they put up a joint candidate from the Ladakh Lok Sabha seat, they can defeat the BJP, he said. "They will get backing from both the LAB and KDA, which will increase their chances of winning. I think the NC and Congress and other opposition parties are formulating strategies to field a joint candidate." If, however, they put up separate candidates, it would lead to split in votes and help the BJP, he warned.

At cross-purposes

Even in the recent Ladakh elections, both the NC and the Congress were in the fray in 50% of the seats—as many as 13 of the 26 seats that went to polls—despite their seat-sharing deal. For example, a sliver of data shows that in the Stakchay Khangral seat, the sum of the votes polled by the NC (479) and the Congress (830) separately was much more than that of the victorious BJP candidate (1,007). Had the allies fought it together, they could have easily pocketed that seat. Such transgressions can still be manageable at micro level where the opponent might not have enough roots and stakes aren't that high. However, this is not possible in Assembly or Lok Sabha polls where the opposite side is formidable. If only the big opposition parties imbibe the spirit of give and take in its true sense in an alliance, give up their bloated egos and field joint candidates, they could become unstoppable.

ble. Another political activist said that the Ladakh administration's attempt to deny the 'Plough' symbol to the NC could have generated a sympathy wave for the party and gone against the BJP. (In two seats, Padum and Karsha, the BJP lost by just 54 and 79 votes, respectively.) It was only after the intervention of the Supreme Court that the Plough symbol was restored to the NC.

Opposition consolidation

Jammu-based political commentator Rekha Choudhary, too, was of the opinion that the NC-Congress alliance made the difference in the Kargil polls. "The NC and the Congress, instead of fighting against each other, fought together against the BJP. If this alliance remains, it would have an impact on the Lok Sabha polls as well because there would be no division of votes. A straight election between the BJP and the rest would make it a tough contest," she said. As for Ladakh, "the LAB and KDA coming together is a different kind of politics, as earlier it used to be Kargil versus Leh and Buddhists versus Muslims in parliamentary polls. Since 2019, Ladakh has been having an interesting change in scenario," she added.

Ladakh BJP President Phunchok Stanzin, however, had a different take. He took heart in the fact that the BJP's votes have increased from 2,500 in the last elections to over 10,000 this time. Asked if it would have any impact on the LS polls, Stanzin said that the situation would be different as he expected the NC and the Congress to field their own respective candidates. But if they manage to put up a joint candidate and the LAB and KDA support them, the situation could change. He, however, added, "I think that kind of situation will not emerge because LAB and KDA won't remain united. Our vote bank won't be affected." As for the demands of the LAB and KDA, he said two more districts would be created in Ladakh and some constitutional safeguards may be granted to Ladakh in the run up to the polls. "If this happens, the unity of LAB and KDA would be nullified," he claimed.

The bottomline then is to find ways to keep the opposition unity intact. Big opposition parties need to find space to accommodate the competing ambitions of each other adequately without creating mutual friction and frittering the advantage away. But that's easier said than done.

OPPOSITION UNITY RAGA FROM KARGIL COUNCIL POLLS



SOUMYADIP SINHA